

WARREN  
MAGAZINE



VAMPI  
#52

JULY 1976

ENTER THE TERRIFYING "HOUSE AT BLOOD CORNER!"

# VAMPIRELLA

58885-6

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SNARED IN A  
SORCERER'S CIRCLE  
OF MADNESS,  
THE RAVISHING  
ALIEN REVERTS  
TO RAGING  
MONSTER!

"VAMPIRELLA...  
THE BEAUTY  
AND THE  
BEAST!"



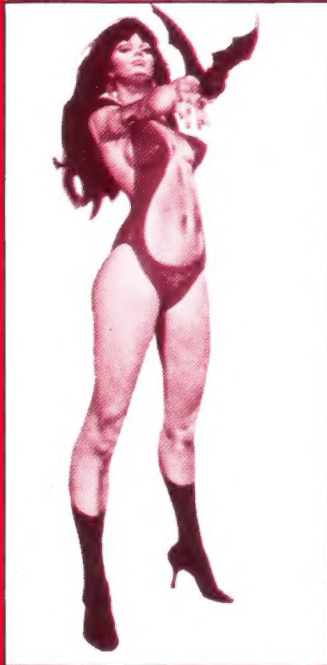


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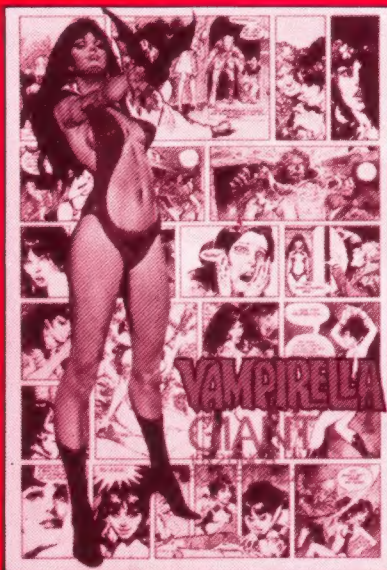
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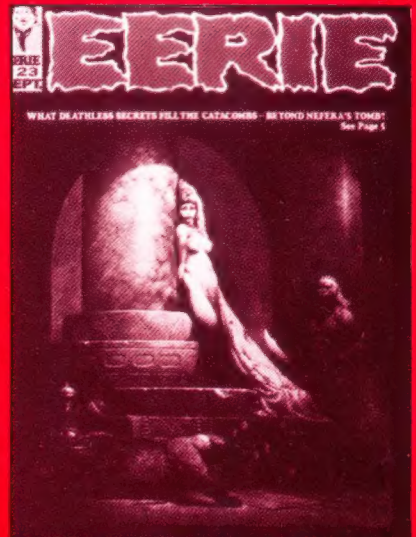
## FULL COLOR! LARGE SIZED! BY WARREN'S FINEST ARTISTS!



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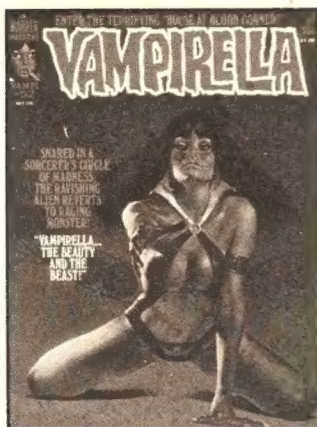


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**OUR COVER**

**VAMPIRELLA**... the woman from Drakulon as deadly as she is beautiful... ready at any minute to revert to raging beast. This exquisite portrait by Enrich. Story on p. 5.

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# VAMPIRELLA®

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### VAMPI: BEAUTY & BEAST

Flashman Howell was the handsome hero of many epic horror films. Under this perfect facade lay a monstrous visage created by the evil Dr. Wrighter. Howell had asked VAMPIRELLA to star in his new film. A tribute to her beauty? Or trap set by Chaos?

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### HOUSE AT BLOOD CORNER

The struggling young writer had planned to write a biography of Paul Thorison, one of Hollywood's most decadent silent film stars. He was eager to gather material... even if it meant living in the old mansion haunted by Thorison's evil ghost!

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### STAKE OUT

The tremendous nuclear conflict had destroyed numerous species. And had made the world unfit for many others. But some new creatures... fitter, stronger than the rest, had emerged. Foremost among these were the vampires, the feasters on human flesh... the inheritors!

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### SEGERSON EXPERIMENT

Horror author, Randolph Segerson's New England mansion housed an evil mystery. The ancient novelist remained a young man. Every room contained unspeakable illusions of terror. And a monster from Segerson's novels lurked in the basement dungeon!



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# VAMPIRELLA

HIGH ATOP A LONELY COLORADO MOUNTAIN, PERCHED  
LIKE AN OMINOUS **GARGOYLE**, SITS A FOREBODING  
SANCTUM OF **EVIL**!

**ONCE...** IT WAS AN ISOLATED TRAINING GROUNDS  
FOR ASPIRING YOUNG PERFORMERS. AN ACADEMY  
OF FUN, LAUGHTER ... **COMRADERY**.

BUT **NOW...HORRORS** SMOLDER WITHIN IT'S  
DARKENED HALLS. MONSTROUS **DEFORMITIES**  
CREEP SILENTLY...RESTLESSLY THROUGH MUSKY  
CORRIDORS.

AND A **TERROR** LURKS WITHIN... APPREHENSIVELY  
AWAITING A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG GIRL FROM THE  
STARS ...!



## Dr. Wrighter's ASYLUM of HORROR



**COLORADO!** OH, PENDY...IT'S **BEAUTIFUL**. SNOW AND MOUNTAINS AND THE FRESHEST AIR I'VE EVER TASTED.

I'M GETTING A ROCKY MOUNTAIN **HIGH** JUST **BEING** HERE.

JOHN DENVER WOULD BE **ELATED** TO HEAR IT, DEAR GIRL.

BUT I CAUTION YOU...FRESH AIR **CAN** BE ADDICTIVE. DON'T GET TOO **USED** TO IT. WE MUST REEMBARK FOR SMOGGY NEW YORK TOMORROW. WE'VE A TELEVISION APPEARANCE... **REMEMBER?**

LET'S NOT THINK ABOUT **WORK**, PEN. WE'VE JUST FINISHED A GIG IN ASPEN.

NOW, WE'VE A WHOLE **DAY** TO ENJOY THE LOCAL **COLOR**.

OH, PEN...**LOOK!** A GOTHIC **MANSION** SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE **MOUNTAINS**.

THIS ISN'T YOUR ORDINARY HAUNTED HERMITAGE, M'DEAR. IT'S PROFESSOR WIDGEON'S WORLD REKNOWN SEMINARY OF CIRCUS STARS AND VAUDEVILLIAN PERFORMERS. MY OLD **ALMA MATER**.

SINCE WE WERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, I THOUGHT I'D TREAT YOU TO THE NICKLE **TOUR**.

AH, WHAT FOND **MEMORIES** THIS AGED "SANCTUM SANCTORUM" ENKINDLES.

I WAS BUT A **BABE** WHEN DEAR OLD **PAP**, GOD REST HIS MERCINARY SOUL, SENT ME HERE TO STUDY WITH **JUGGINS THE GREAT**.

**JUGGINS** THE GREAT?

MOST REKNOWN LEGERDEMAINIST OF **ALL TIME**.

LEGER-WHAT?

**SORCERER**, M'DEAR! YOU SIMPLY **MUST** ATTEND TO THAT AILING VOCABULARY.

C'MON! THE **REAL ACTION'S** OUT **BACK!**





OH, PENDY...  
A **CARNIVAL**.  
MARVELOUS!

SURELY YOU DIDN'T  
THINK THIS WAS SIMPLY  
AN ELABORATE **CARAVANSARY**  
FOR ASPIRING THEATRICIANS?

HECK **NO**, GIRL.  
THE IMPECCABLE PRO-  
FESSOR WIDGEON **EN-**  
**COURAGES** HIS STUDENTS  
TO ASSAY THEIR COMPETENCE  
ON THE PAYING PUBLIC...

...INCLUDING THE  
**COTTON CANDY**  
**HUCKSTER** THERE!

WHAT A  
**UNIQUE** FOOD,  
PEN. I NEVER  
KNEW SUCH A  
SUBSTANCE  
**EXISTED**.

**POSH!** SIMPLY ANOTHER  
OF MOTHER EARTH'S RARE  
EPICURIAN DELIGHTS...GROWN  
WITH LOVING CARE ON PLUSH  
PLANTATIONS AND HAND-  
PICKED BY SONG-IN-THE-  
HEART, RHYTHM-IN-THE-  
FEET **DARKIES!**



UH OH! WHAT'S  
THE COMMOTION  
OVER **THERE?**

COME **ONE!** COME  
**ALL!** DR. WRIGHTER'S  
WONDEROUS SIDESHOW  
AND FREAK EXHIBITION  
IS NOW **OPEN!**



**FREAK SHOW?**  
SOMETHING'S **WRONG**  
HERE. PROFESSOR  
WIDGEON WOULD **NEVER**  
CONDONE THE CHEAP  
EXHIBITION OF HUMAN  
**ODDITIES!**

AND **WHO'S** THIS  
DR. WRIGHTER THAT  
LITTLE MONSTER SPOKE  
OF?

**ONE** WAY TO  
FIND OUT, PEN...  
LET'S GO **IN**  
AND **ASK** HIM!



**GASP!** I CAN'T  
BEAR TO LOOK! THE  
ONCE ELITE WIDGEON  
ACADEMY REDUCED TO  
SHODDY **SENSA-**  
**TIONALISM!**

LIKE IT OR NOT,  
THE **RUBES** ARE  
**EATING** IT  
UP, PEN.



RIGHT THIS WAY,  
LADEES AND GENNEL'MEN  
...FOR THE **HORRORS**  
OF THE **DECADE!**

**LOOK** IF YOU **DARE**  
UPON THE GROTESQUE  
CONTENANCE OF **HOLLY**  
THE **HORRIBLE!**

HER **BODY** DRIVES MEN  
**MAD** WITH DESIRE...WHILE  
HER **FACE** COULD **WILT**  
THE STILTS OFF A CIRCUS  
CLOWN!



CAST YOUR EYES ON **BUTTONS**  
**LEBOW**...THINNEST MAN IN THE  
WORLD. YOU CAN ACTUALLY **SEE**  
HIS HEART **PUMPING!**



ONCE AN ELEPHANTINE FOUR  
HUNDRED POUNDS, **BUTTONS** MADE  
THE MISTAKE OF GORGING HIMSELF  
IN A GUADALAJARAN RESTAURANT,  
WHERE HE CONTRACTED A NEAR-  
**FATAL** CASE OF THE **G.I.'S!**

GAZE AT ENTHRALLING **LITTLE**  
**LOTTA**...SEDUCED AS A CHILD BY  
A DERANGED SODA FOUNTAIN JERK.



AND CAN A SHOW BE COMPLETE  
WITHOUT **BABY HUEY**, THE ONLY  
MAN EVER TO BE GROUND UNDER  
THE WHEELS OF A RUNAWAY  
BROOKLYN SUBWAY...AND **LIVE!**



YES, LADEES N'  
GENNELMEN...STEP THIS  
WAY! THERE'S **MORE** TO SEE  
...**MIRACLES** TO **STAGGER**  
THE SENSES IN DR. WRIGHTER'S  
'WONDEROUS SIDESHOW CAR-  
NIVAL OF **FREAKS!**

THIS IS THE MOST  
**DEBASED** SPECTACLE  
I'VE EVER WITNESSED,  
PEN.

I **ASSURE** YOU,  
IT WAS **NEVER** LIKE  
THIS IN THE SCHOOL'S  
GOLDEN YEARS.

I'M ALMOST  
**ASHAMED** TO  
BE HERE!

I'D LIKE TO MEET  
THIS **DR. WHOOZIT**  
WHO'S APPARENTLY  
RUNNING THE SHOW  
NOW...AND GIVE HIM  
A THOROUGH  
CHASTIZING.











YOU SEE... I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FREAKS YOU HAVE SEEN. EACH OF THEM WAS ONCE A SOCIAL **DERELECT**. TRAMPS. WHORES. DOPE ADDICTS AND WINOS.

THEY CAME TO ME AND I MADE THEM INTO SOMETHING.



YOU MADE THEM INTO **ANYTHING**. YOU MEAN! YOU... YOU **BUTCHERED** THEM.

NOT SO, SWEET LADY. I AM A **SURGEON**. I OPERATED ON **EACH** OF THEM... GRANTING THEM A PECULIARITY THAT WOULD **INSURE** THEIR EMPLOYMENT IN **ANY** CARNIVAL OR ROADSHOW ON THIS EARTH.



EACH OF THEM **WILL-FULLY** SUBMITTED TO MY SCALPEL KNOWING FULL- WELL THE OUTCOME **BEFOREHAND**.

WHILE RECOUPERATING FROM SURGERY, THEY ARE RETAINED HERE AND **TAUGHT** THE RUDIMENTS OF SIDE SHOW ENTERTAINMENT. AND AN AMUSING **LIE** IS CONCOCTED AS TO THEIR **ORIGINS**.

WHEN THEY LEAVE THIS SCHOOL, IT IS AS FULL- FLEDGED CARNIVAL **SHOWMEN**.

THE ACADEMY HAS **CHANGED** A BIT SINCE **MY** DAYS HERE.



I TRUST YOU'RE NOT **CRITICIZING** MY TECHNIQUES, SIR.

WHY, MY FAMILY HAS BEEN IN THE BUSINESS OF SUPPLYING SIDE SHOW ENTERTAINERS TO AILING CARNIVALS FOR OVER A **HUNDRED YEARS**.

YOU MAY HAVE **HEARD** OF MY GREAT GRANDFATHER... BORN WITHOUT LIMBS, THEY CALLED HIM **HALFWALK!** THE MAN WAS A **GENIUS** IN HUMAN ALTERATION. TO THIS DAY, I EMPLOY SOME OF HIS MORE BRILLIANT BLUEPRINTS FOR MY OWN MASTERPIECES.



I HOPE MY **TOUR** HAS BEEN PROVOCATIVE AND ENLIGHTENING FOR YOU, MY DEAR.

MAY I SEE YOU **AGAIN?** FOR DINNER PERHAPS?

AS LONG AS I'M NOT ON THE MENU.

FINE. I'LL SEND MY **COACH** FOR YOU.

BY THE WAY... I LIKE YOUR **ATTIRE**.

THANK YOU. NOT MANY **NOTICE** IT.



WHAT A  
**CREEP!**

YOU SEEM TO **DRAW**  
'EM LIKE FLIES, LOVE. **WHY**  
DID YOU EVER ACCEPT HIS  
INVITATION TO DINE?

YOU KNOW ME, PEN  
...ALWAYS **OPEN** FOR  
A NEW EXPERIENCE.

SO RIGHT, DEAR GIRL. I  
**KNOW** YOU. YOU'RE HOPING  
THE GOOD DOCTOR UNDERTOOK  
SURGICAL ALTERATION ON HIS  
**OWN** LOWER EXTREMITIES.

NAUGHTY,  
NAUGHTY, PEN.

**WHY, DOC?**  
WHY'D YOU  
**EXPOSE**  
OUR  
OPERATION  
TO THAT  
NINNYHEAD  
MUFFIN?

JARVIS, THAT  
GIRL CAN  
BRING US A  
SMALL  
**FORTUNE!**

WITH A LITTLE  
MODIFICATION, SHE MIGHT  
BE JUST THE THING  
**FLASHMAN** NEEDS IN  
HIS NEXT **HORROR FLICK**.

LOOK...WE **BUILD** FREAKS,  
CAST THEM INTO THE WORLD, AND  
TAKE A **PERCENTAGE** OF EVERY  
CENT THEY EARN. BUT IT AMOUNTS  
TO **SQUASH**. THERE'S NO **FU-**  
**TURE** IN CARNIVALS AND ROAD  
SHOWS.

**MOTION PICTURES** IS WHERE  
THE **MONEY'S** AT. IF WE CAN PED-  
DLE THIS CHICKEN TO FLASHMAN  
HOWELL'S **FILM STUDIO**, WE'LL  
BE ON EASY STREET.

THERE'S AN **EASIER**  
WAY TO BREAK INTO  
FILMS, DOC, THAN  
PAWNING THAT GIRL  
OFF ONTO YOUR  
MOVIE STAR **BUDDY**.

**HOW, JARVIS?**  
BY BECOMING AN  
ACTOR **MYSELF?**

YOU THINK I SHOULD MAKE  
CHEAP **HORROR** PICTURES  
AND **EXPLOIT** THE **DEFORM-**  
**ITIES** I TRY TO **HIDE**  
FROM THE WORLD?

NO CHANCE, JARVIS! I'M  
NOT ABOUT TO FLAUNT MY  
**OWN** BIRTH DEFECTS BE-  
FORE AN AUDIENCE.

I'M A **SURGEON**...A  
MOLDER OF HUMAN FLESH.  
AN **ARTIST** AND A **CREATOR**  
...NOT A MERE PERFORMER!

WELL, FATHER CREATOR, IF  
YOU'D COME OUT FROM UNDER  
THAT **GOD COMPLEX** OF YOURS,  
MAYBE YOU CAN TELL US WHEN  
YOU'RE GOING TO FIND US  
SOME **WORK!**





HOLLY! BUTTONS!  
HUEY! I DIDN'T HEAR  
YOU COME IN!

WE WANT TO KNOW  
**WHEN** WE CAN START  
COLLECTING THOSE BIG  
**PAYCHECKS** YOU  
PROMISED US,  
WRIGHTER!

WE'VE BEEN ROTTING  
UP HERE, COLLECTING  
**DUST!** HOW COME YOU  
HAVEN'T FOUND US **JOBS**  
LIKE YOU'VE PROMISED?



I'VE BEEN **TRYING**, HUEY.  
**REALLY** I HAVE. BUT BUSINESS  
IS A LITTLE **SLOW**. IT'S THE OFF  
SEASON FOR CARNEYS ALL  
OVER.

T-THEY'RE JUST  
NOT **HIRING** RIGHT  
NOW.



YOU'RE DAMNED **RIGHT**  
THEY'RE NOT **HIRING**. THEY  
HAVEN'T BEEN **HIRING FREAKS**  
FOR THE PAST **TWENTY**  
**YEARS**.

YOU **CONNED** US,  
WRIGHTER. YOU TRICKED  
US INTO THINKING WE'D  
**BE** SOMEBODY IF WE  
SUBMITTED TO YOUR  
OPERATIONS.

YOU NEVER **INTENDED**  
TO MAKE US INTO CARNIVAL  
STARS. YOU ONLY WANTED US  
TO LOOK LIKE **YOU...** A  
TWISTED, DEFORMED  
**ABOMINATION!**

BECAUSE YOU CAN'T OPERATE  
ON **YOURSELF** AND FIX YOUR **OWN**  
HIDEOUS FEATURES, YOUR TWISTED MIND  
CONCOCTS WAYS TO MAKE **OTHERS** AS  
CADAVEROUS AS YOURSELF.



T-THAT'S **UNTRUE**, CASPER!  
I...I'VE BEEN **TRYING** TO PLACE  
YOU WITH A SHOW...**ALL** OF YOU.

I...I'VE GOTTEN  
**OTHERS** WORK. AND  
YOU'LL **SEE...** I'LL HELP  
YOU, TOO!

JUST GIVE ME  
MORE **TIME!**

TIME'S THE ONE THING  
YOU'RE RUNNING **OUT** OF,  
WRIGHTER. GET US **JOBS**  
**SOON...** OR YOU'LL **REGRET**  
EVER TURNING A SCALPEL  
ON US.



WHAT'LL WE **DO**, DOC?  
THEY'RE ANGRY ENOUGH TO  
EAT YOU **ALIVE!**

WHAT'S THAT  
YOU'RE **SKETCHING**,  
DOC?

WHAT WE **DO**, JARVIS  
IS **NOT** WORRY ABOUT  
THOSE NO TALENT  
BUFFOONS!

WE'VE A MORE  
**LUCRATIVE** PROJECT  
TO UNDERTAKE.





MY **MASTERPIECE**, JARVIS...THE **ULTIMATE FREAK**. ONE WE CAN PEDdle TO THE MOVIES FOR A KING'S RANSOM.

GOOD LORD...  
**NOOOOO!**



WE'LL SIMPLY GRAFT **YOUR HEAD** ONTO THAT LUSCIOUS GIRL'S **BODY...**

...AND HOPE SHE HAS ENOUGH **TALENT** TO ACT HER WAY INTO FLASHMAN'S GOOD GRACES.

B-BUT WHICH **ONE** OF US WILL BE THE **STAR**?



DOES IT **MATTER**, MY IMPISH FRIEND? PERHAPS WE CAN CON FLASHMAN INTO SIGNING YOU **BOTH** TO A FAT CONTRACT.

**FLASHMAN! FLASHMAN!** WHY DO YOU KEEP TALKING ABOUT **FLASHMAN**? HE'S A **CELEBRITY!** YOU MAY BE **FRIENDS**, BUT HE WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO **DO** WITH YOUR **FREAKS**.

FLASHMAN WON'T FAIL ME, JARVIS. I **MADE** HIM EVERYTHING HE IS TODAY!



SOMEWHAT **LATER**, AN ANCIENT HORSE-DRAWN VEHICLE CONVULSIVELY WINDS TOWARDS THE ANTIQUATED ACADEMY...

WRIGHTER WASN'T JOKING WHEN HE SAID HE'D SEND HIS **CARRIAGE** FOR ME.

ISN'T **THIS** CARRYING HIS MAD DOCTOR IMAGE A BIT **FAR**?



THE MASTER IS **ECCENTRIC**, MA'AM. SINCE HIS ARRIVAL AT THE SCHOOL, HE'S BECOME A STICKLER FOR GOTHIC AUTHENTICITY. FANCIES HIMSELF A CROSS BETWEEN ANDY WARHOL'S **DRACULA** AND MEL BROOK'S **YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN**.

BUT THEN, THE SCHOOL ITSELF TENDS TO HAVE THAT EFFECT ON PEOPLE. ORIGINALLY, IT WAS BUILT BY A SWEET LITTLE OLD LADY WHO QUITE SUCCESSFULLY AUTHORED THE MOST GRUESOME **MURDER MYSTERIES** OF THE EARLY CENTURY. HER CLAIM WAS THAT SHE NEEDED THE MANSE FOR BOTH **SECLUSION** AND **INSPIRATION**.

WHEN SHE WAS FOUND **DEAD**, HER FINGERS HORRIBLY CAUGHT AND MANGLED IN HER OWN TYPEWRITER DURING ONE PARTICULARLY FRANTIC CREATIVE MOMENT, **PROFESSOR WIDGEON** PURCHASED THE GROUNDS AND FOUND THE SECLUSION **PERFECT** FOR HIS SEMINARY.





YOUR DRIVER WAS JUST FILLING ME IN ON THE **HISTORY** OF YOUR QUAIN OLD CHATEAU, DOCTOR.

A MOST UNUSUALLY **COLORFUL** SANCTORUM.

**YOUR** HISTORY MUST BE INFINITELY MORE INTRIGUING, MY PET. I'M ANXIOUS TO LEARN **ALL** ABOUT YOU.

COME. TELL ME OVER A **DRINK**.



MMM. THE DINNER LOOKS LUSCIOUS. BUT TELL ME, E.C., DO YOU ALWAYS EAT ADMIST A PLETHORA OF **COBWEBS**?

YOU'VE AN **EX-HILARATING** SENSE OF OBSERVATION.

FRANKLY... I **THRIVE** IN THE MUSKY, RUNDOWN DECOR OF THIS SCHOOL. IT ALMOST MAKES ME FEEL **DECADENT**...

...LIKE SIPPING **BLOOD** FROM A **JUGULAR** OR SOMETHING, Y'KNOW?



I DON'T FIND THAT **AMUSING**, DOCT--! **OH!**

M-MY **HEAD**... I FEEL SO **DIZZY** ALL OF A SUDDEN.

T-THE **WINE**...! YOU...YOU'VE SLIPPED... ME...A **MICKEY**!

IT'S JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING TO **SEDATE**, YOU, MY DEAR.

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO **DRUG** ME...TO GET ME...TO STAY THE NIGHT...! I'M A **PUSHOVER** ...FOR A PRETTY FACE...!



I HAD NOTHING SO **PHILISTINE** IN MIND! IT WAS MY INTENTION TO CREATE A **STAR** OF YOU TONIGHT!

OH **NO**...NOT THAT OLD CAMERA-IN-THE-BOUDOIR TECHNIQUE AGAIN.

NO, LOVE...I MEANT **CREATE... BUILD... CONSTRUCT**...A NEW YOU...



...STARTING BY GIVING YOU D.R.E.C. WRIGHTER'S ANSWER TO THE **FACE LIFT**!

THANKS, DOC...BUT I'M REALLY **ATTACHED** TO THE FACE I'VE GOT.

YOU'LL LIKE **THIS** ONE EVEN MORE!

**SEE!**





ONCE JARVIS' GROTESQUE  
HEAD IS GRAFTED ONTO YOUR  
BODY, YOU'LL BECOME THE BIGGEST  
MOTION PICTURE STAR SINCE  
**SPANKY MCFARLAND!**

WHY ME, GOD?  
WHY DO I GET  
THEM **ALL**?



**SO, WRIGHTER!** YOU'RE  
GOING TO MAKE A **FILM**  
STAR OUT OF **HER**... BUT  
YOU CAN'T EVEN GET **US**  
LOUSY CARNEY JOBS!

**HOLLY!** YOU  
DON'T **UNDER-**  
**STAND--!**

WE COMPREHEND  
**PERFECTLY**, YOU  
PHONEY SAWBONES! YOU'VE  
BEEN **SCAMMING** US  
ALL ALONG!

**FREAKS**  
HAVE **NO** FUTURE  
IN THE CIRCUS AND  
YOU **KNOW** IT!

YOU COULD HAVE  
GOTTEN **US** INTO  
PICTURES USING  
YOUR MOVIE STAR  
BUDDY... BUT YOU'D  
RATHER WE ROTTED  
ON THIS MOUNTAIN-  
TOP **HELL** CATERING  
TO YOUR VILE  
**EGO!**



**HUEY!** T-THAT'S  
NOT THE WAY IT  
**IS--!**

YOU'VE CONCOCTED  
YOUR **LAST** MONSTER,  
WRIGHTER!



IT'S TIME FOR  
THE **WORMS** TO  
BUTCHER THE **FISH**....!

HOW DOES IT **FEEL**,  
WRIGHTER... TO BECOME  
EVEN **MORE** LIKE **US**?

**NOOOOO!**  
**PLEASE!**

**NOOOOOOOOOO!**



BLOOD. BONES. HUMAN TISSUE ARE SPEWN **WILDY** ABOUT AS THE ENRAGED FREAKS BATHE IN A GORE-ORGY OF HORROR.



WRIGHTER'S HOARSE, TERROR-FILLED SCREAM SHRILLY **SPLITS** THE AIR ONLY TO TRAIL OFF IN A BLOOD-GARGLING **COUGH**.

ONCE, NOT LONG AGO, SHE HAD MADE AN ALMOST FORGOTTEN **VOW**. SHE WOULD KILL **NO MORE...** UNLESS IT WAS A DEATH OF **MERCY**.



**S-STAY AWAY! AWAYYYY!**

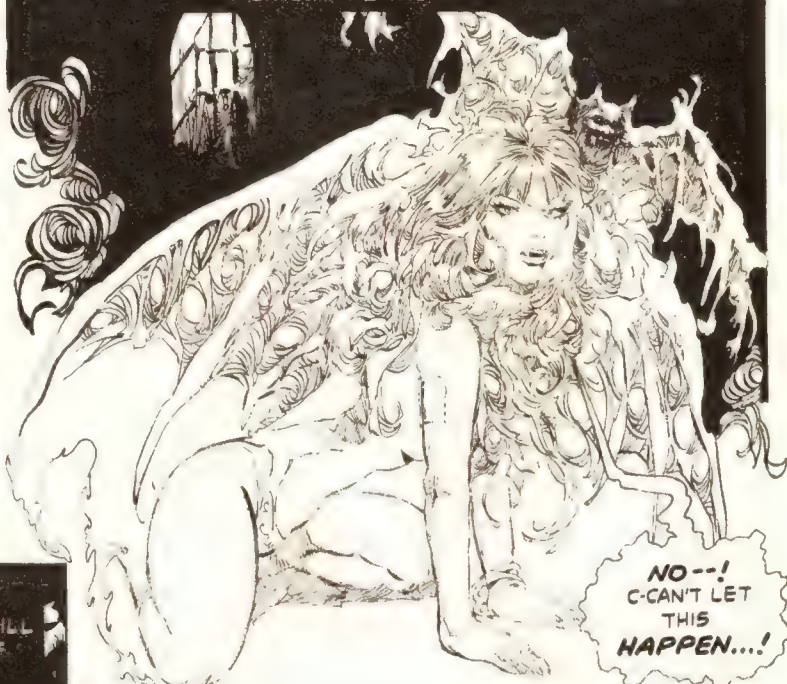
**EUTHENASIA...** SHE WOULD USE IT AS A **TOOL** TO PRY THAT PAINFUL DISEASE, **LIFE** OUT OF THOSE TO WHOM IT HAD BECOME A **PARASITIC CANCER**.



FEVERISHLY, THE BAT FLUTTERES UPON EACH OF THE TERROR-STRICKEN **REVULSIONS**, DRINKING THEIR **BLOOD... DRAINING** THEIR LIVES FROM THEIR TWISTED, GROTESQUE BODIES.

AT LAST THEY CAN BE AT **PEACE**... TORMENTED NO MORE BY THE SOCIETY THAT HAD NEVER ALLOWED THEM TO **ADAPT**.

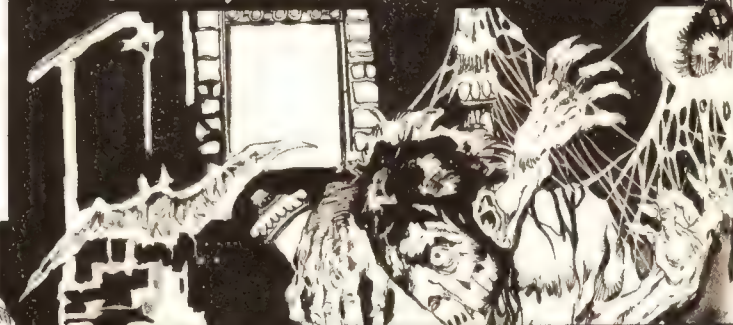
AND A GIRL... DAZED AND BENUMBED FROM A HEAD-SPINNING **DRUG**, FALLS... STAGGERS TO THE FLOOR **HELPLESS** TO SAVE THE DOCTOR FROM BEING TORN ASUNDER BY HIS TORMENTED CREATIONS...



**NO--! C-CAN'T LET THIS HAPPEN...!**

...ABLE ONLY TO **CHANGE...** IN A MIGHTY EFFORT OF **WILL...** TO **EVOLVE** HER FORM INTO A DEADLY, LEATHERN **BAT**.

SHE **HATES** THE ROLE. JUDGE. JURY. **EXECUTIONER**. BUT IN THIS ROOM OF **FREAKS...** OF MURDEROUS, INSANE **TERRORS**, SHE HAS **NO CHOICE**.



AND WHEN **NO LIFE** STIRS WITHIN THE ANCIENT ACADEMY, THE BLOOD-GORGED BAT **RETREATS** INTO THE CHILL, MOUNTAIN AIR.



TUMULTUOUS THOUGHTS RACE THROUGH THE TINY CREATURE'S BRAIN. THOUGHTS TROUBLED BY COMPASSION... **SORROW**. FOR SHE KNOWS THAT **NO TEAR** WILL BE SHED FOR THE VICTIMIZED UNFORTUNATES WHO TONIGHT FORFEIT THEIR **LIVES**.

AND SUDDENLY, TO THIS LONE, TREMBLING CREATURE, THE FRESH COLORADO AIR IS TAINTED WITH THE HAUNTING SMELL OF **GUILT**.



# THE BEAUTY and the BEAST

SEVERAL DAYS LATER, AND A HALF A CONTINENT AWAY, FREAKS, MURDERS AND HORRORS IN THE NIGHT, DOMINATE THE CONVERSATION IN THE PLUSH OFFICES OF THE PRESTIGIOUS MALLETT FILM STUDIO.

TO BE BLUNT, MISS MELONBOSOM, YOU'RE TOO **CUTSIE** TO PORTRAY A DERANGED KILLER OF CARNIVAL FREAKS.

YOU MAY HAVE BEEN TERRIFIC OPPOSITE **REDFORD** AND **BRONSON**, BUT WE NEED SOMEONE A LITTLE MORE **WORLDLY**... SLIGHTLY MORE **MENACING** TO CO-STAR WITH **FLASHMAN HOWELL**.

AND IF MY FEATHER-HEADED ASSISTANT HAD **REALIZED** THAT, HE WOULDN'T HAVE WASTED OUR TIME BY BRINGING YOU HERE.

I... I'M **SORRY**, MR. WHITESTAFF... I... I THOUGHT SHE'D BE CONVINCING AS--!

LISTEN, WILLARD. THE FIRST THING YOU'VE GOT TO LEARN IF YOU WANT TO ASSIST THE GREAT **ENRIQUE WHITE-STAFF** IN PRODUCING MOTION PICTURES, IS TO THINK **EVIL**.

LOOK... YOU WERE TERRIFIC AT WRITING HORROR STORIES FOR **COMIC BOOKS**.

WHEN I TOOK A CHANCE AND HIRED YOU TO SCRIPT **FRIGHT FILMS** FOR ME, YOU WEREN'T BAD AT THAT, EITHER.

BUT NOW THAT I'VE PROMOTED YOU TO **ASSISTANT PRODUCER**, YOU'VE BECOME A **BUNGLER** AND A **CLOD**.

YOU'VE **PETER PRINCIPLED** YOURSELF RIGHT INTO MY BAD GRACES!

LET ME GIVE YOU SOME FATHERLY **ADVICE**, SON...!

IF YOU DON'T FIND ME A **WORLDLY**, **SEDUCTIVE**, INNOCENTLY **EVIL** GIRL TO STAR IN FLASHMAN'S NEW FILM, YOU'LL BE BACK WRITING **FUNNY BOOKS** TOMORROW!

NOW GET **OUT** OF HERE, YOU **BUBBLEHEAD**!

THAT EVENING, IN AN INEXPENSIVE HOTEL ON NEW YORK'S MODEST WEST SIDE, TWO MISMATCHED FRIENDS PONDER BOTH **PAST** AND **FUTURE**.

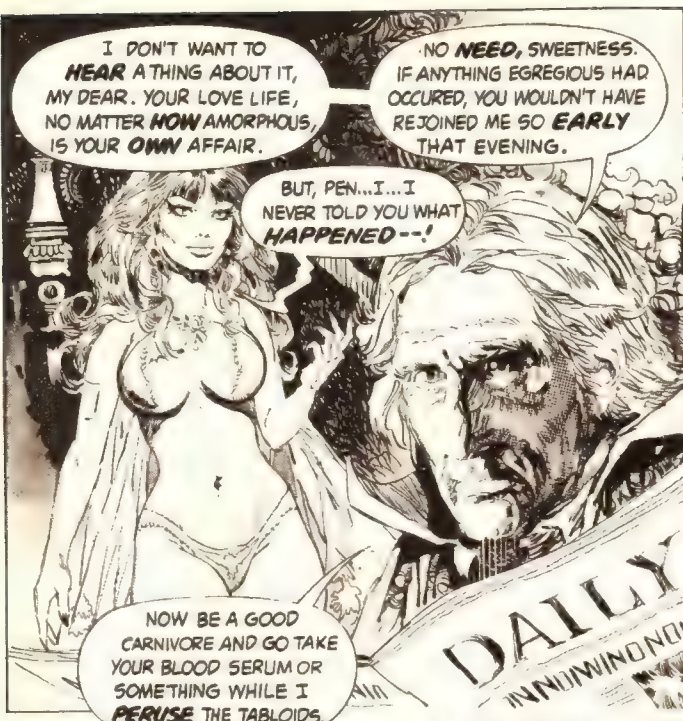
YOU'RE NOT POSTULATING ON **DRAKULON** AGAIN, ARE YOU, LOVE? I THOUGHT YOU'D GIVEN THAT UP AFTER OUR LITTLE ESCAPE WITH **PANTHA**\*!

OR DO YOU SIMPLY **MISS** ADAM VAN HELSING?

**NEITHER**, PEN. I WAS THINKING ABOUT **DR. WRIGHTER** AND HIS **FREAKS**. I... I--!

\*SEE **VAMPIRELLA** #50.





I DON'T WANT TO **HEAR** A THING ABOUT IT, MY DEAR. YOUR LOVE LIFE, NO MATTER **HOW** AMORPHOUS, IS YOUR **OWN** AFFAIR.

NO **NEED**, SWEETNESS. IF ANYTHING EGREGIOUS HAD OCCURED, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE REJOINED ME SO **EARLY** THAT EVENING.

BUT, PEN...I...I NEVER TOLD YOU WHAT **HAPPENED**--!

NOW BE A GOOD CARNIVORE AND GO TAKE YOUR BLOOD SERUM OR SOMETHING WHILE I **PERUSE** THE TABLOIDS.

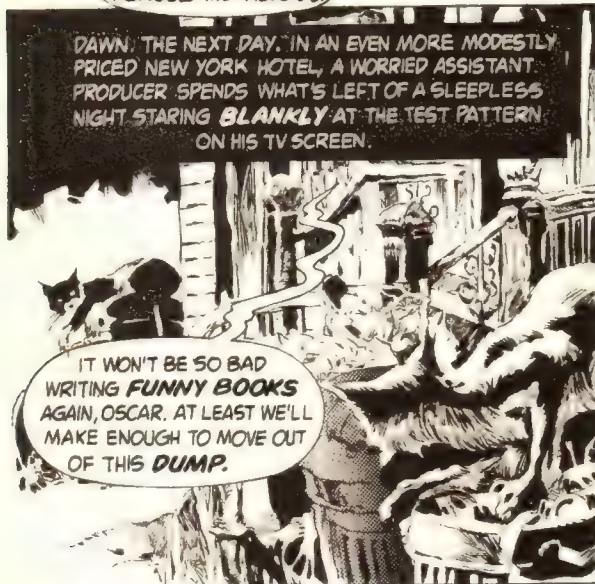


PEN...YOU'RE SWEET AND UNDERSTANDING. BUT YOU'RE NOT AS **NAIVE** AS YOU **PRETEND** TO BE. I **LOVE** YOU.

I WISH YOU WOULDN'T UTTER SUCH EXPRESSIONS... ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE WEARING SO RAVISHINGLY **LITTLE**.

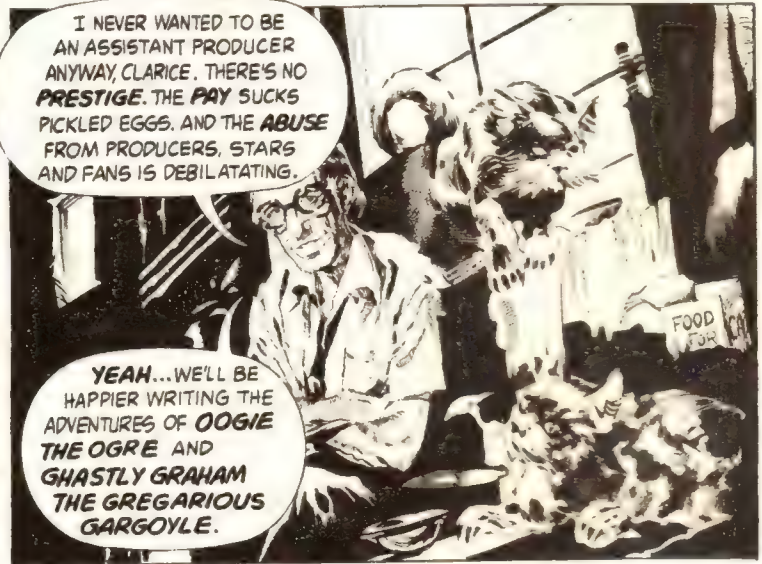
I MAY HAVE REACHED THE FRINGES OF **ANTIQUITY**, MY DEAR...BUT I HAVEN'T AS YET ENJOINED THE RANKS OF THE **DECEASED**.

AS SOON AS I CALL THE **TV STUDIO** TO DISCERN WHAT TIME THEY WISH US TO REPORT IN THE MORNING, I'M GOING TO TAKE A LONG, COLD **SHOWER**.



DAWN, THE NEXT DAY, IN AN EVEN MORE MODESTLY PRICED NEW YORK HOTEL, A WORRIED ASSISTANT PRODUCER SPENDS WHAT'S LEFT OF A SLEEPLESS NIGHT STARING **BLANKLY** AT THE TEST PATTERN ON HIS TV SCREEN.

IT WON'T BE SO BAD WRITING **FUNNY BOOKS** AGAIN, OSCAR. AT LEAST WE'LL MAKE ENOUGH TO MOVE OUT OF THIS **DUMP**.



I NEVER WANTED TO BE AN ASSISTANT PRODUCER ANYWAY, CLARICE. THERE'S NO **PRESTIGE**. THE **PAY** SUCKS PICKLED EGGS. AND THE **ABUSE** FROM PRODUCERS, STARS AND FANS IS DEBILITATING.

YEAH...WE'LL BE HAPPIER WRITING THE ADVENTURES OF **OOGIE THE OGRE** AND **GHASTLY GRAHAM THE GREGARIOUS GARGOYLE**.



AH, WHO AM I **KIDDING**?

HORROR FILMS ARE THE MOST **EXCITING** THING THAT'S HAPPENED IN MY DULL, DRAB LIFE.

WHAT KIND OF **PRODUCER** WILL I MAKE IF I CAN'T EVEN **SOLVE** THIS ONE SMALL CASTING PROBLEM?

ALL I NEED IS A SEXY, DECADENTLY WICKED STAR WITH INNOCENCE...AND HAVE HER BEFORE NINE O'CLOCK WHEN I SEE **FLASHMAN**.

DAMN. I'VE SUGGESTED EVERY BEAUTIFUL ACTRESS I COULD THINK OF. AND ALL WHITESTAFF SAYS IS..."TOO **BLACK**", "TOO **BLOND**" OR "TOO **OLD**."



OH GOD...WHERE AM I  
GONNA FIND PERFECTLY PACKAGED  
INNOCENCE AND EVIL, IN LESS  
THAN **THREE HOURS?**



**HUGH HEFNER** COULD  
UNCOVER OUR GIRL. HE KNOWS  
EVERY RAVISHING BEAUTY  
THIS SIDE OF **URANUS**.

BUT **WILLARD  
WEINERBERGER** HASN'T  
GOT A **SNOWBALL'S** CHANCE  
IN HELL--!



**HUH?** WHO'S  
THAT...? OH...THE  
**TV STATION** JUST  
WENT ON THE AIR.

GOOD MORNING,  
KIDDIES...THIS IS YOUR  
OLD **UNCLE BOB**...

...WE'VE A  
VERY SPECIAL  
GUEST TODAY...

...THAT WORLD-  
REKNOWN ILLUSIONIST  
EXTRAORDINAIRE...  
**PENDRAGON THE  
GREAT!**

SALUTATIONS, CHERUBS.  
'ERE I COMMENCE MY PER-  
FORMANCE, I BID YOU ALL  
DO ME A VOLUMINOUS  
**FAVOR**.

QUIETLY **CREEP**  
INTO PATER'S  
BOUDOIR. **HUSH**,  
SO AS NOT TO  
AWAKEN **MAMA!**  
**NOW** WITH ALL  
YOUR ENERGY,  
ENDOW FATHER  
WITH A BENUMBING  
**KARATE CHOP**  
TO THE  
EPIGLOTTIS.

PAPA WILL BE  
INSTANTLY  
**AWAKENED.**

NOW...IT'S MY  
PRESUMPTION YOU  
URCHINS HAVE NEVER  
HEARD OF **PENDRAGON  
THE GREAT OR  
VAMPIRELLA**.

THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE,  
SINCE OUR ACT IS **X-RATED**  
AND WE ENTERTAIN ONLY  
WITHIN THE MOST **DECA-  
DENT** CABARETS.

PAINWRACKED AND  
ANGRY, HE'LL **PURSU**  
YOU ALL THE WAY BACK  
TO THE TELEVISION  
SET.

BUT ONCE DADDY  
RECONNOITERS MY LOVELY  
ASSOCIATE, **VAMPIRELLA**...  
HE'LL **FORGET** THE NEAR-  
FATAL **BLOW** YOU'VE DEALT  
HIM...AND WILL PROBABLY  
BEQUEATH YOU AN EXTRA  
CAPACIOUS ALLOWANCE  
THIS WEEK!

NONETHELESS, THIS  
IS OUR FIRST TELEVISION  
APPEARANCE, AND WE'D  
LIKE TO MAKE IT ONE YOU'LL  
LONG **REMINISCE** UPON.





FOR OUR PRIMARY INTERLUDE, WE'VE A VARIATION ON THE ANCIENT SWORD SWALLOWING ROUTINE.



OH MY GOD!  
T-THAT'S HER!  
FLASHMAN'S NEW  
CO-STAR!

SHE'S BEAUTIFUL!  
VIRTUOUS! EVIL!

SHE'S BETTER  
THAN A MODEL  
FROM THE PAGES  
OF *PLAYBOY*!



WHAT DID HE CALL  
HER? **VAMPIRE ELLA**?  
I...I'VE GOT TO PHONE  
THE TV STATION...  
GET A PRESS KIT ON  
HER!

OH GOD! OH GOD!  
MR. WHITESTAFF...MR.  
HOWELL WILL BE SO  
**PLEASED!**

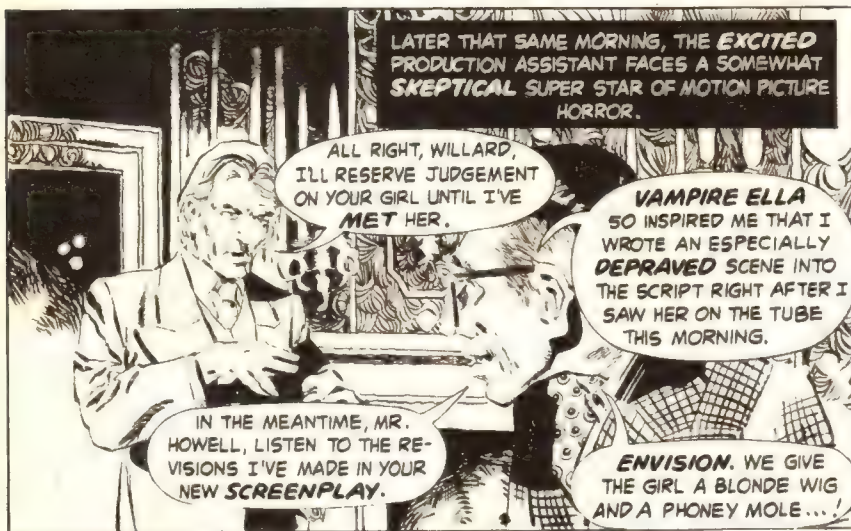
I'VE  
**FOUND THEIR  
NEW STAR!**



"OUR STORY OPENS. P.T. BUNYAN AND HIS HIDEOUS INTER-GALACTIC CARNIVAL OF FREAKS HAVE CAPTURED YOU. THEY STRIP YOU. FLOG YOU. THE POPCORN VENDOR IS READY TO POUR BOILING, SALTED **BUTTER** INTO YOUR WOUNDS.

"BUT **VAMPIRE ELLA**, THE CARNIVAL **GROUPIE**, WHO HAS SECRETELY HACKED SEVERAL FREAKS TO DEATH, **LEAPS** OUT OF HIDING SWINGING HER DOUBLE-EDGED HEADSMAN'S AXE.

"SHE CLIPS HUGE **CHUNKS** OUT OF SEVERAL FLEEING FREAKS BEFORE SHE **RESCUES** YOU. AND TOGETHER, YOU **RUN OFF** TO A SECLUDED **SWAMP**.



ALL RIGHT, WILLARD,  
I'LL RESERVE JUDGEMENT  
ON YOUR GIRL UNTIL I'VE  
MET HER.

**VAMPIRE ELLA**  
SO INSPIRED ME THAT I  
WROTE AN ESPECIALLY  
**DEPRAVED** SCENE INTO  
THE SCRIPT RIGHT AFTER I  
SAW HER ON THE TUBE  
THIS MORNING.

IN THE MEANTIME, MR.  
HOWELL, LISTEN TO THE RE-  
VISIONS I'VE MADE IN YOUR  
NEW **SCREENPLAY**.

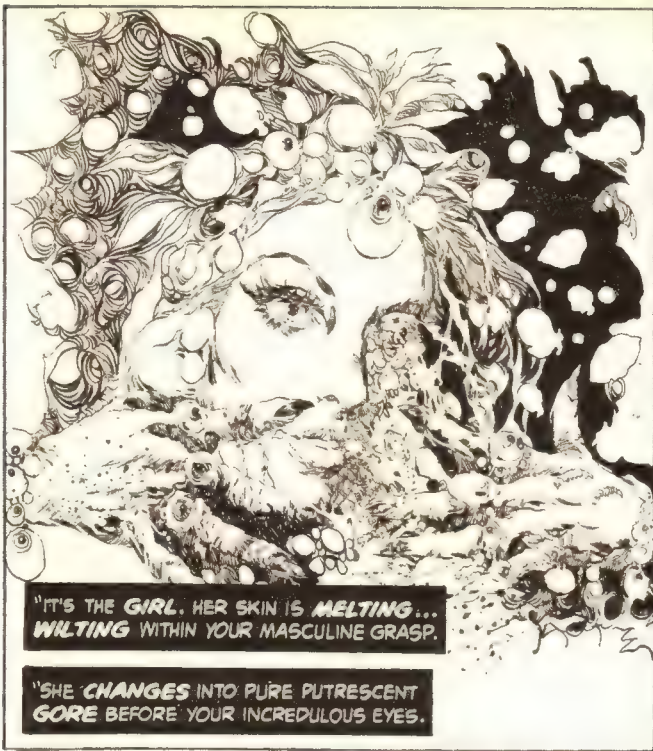
**ENVISION.** WE GIVE  
THE GIRL A BLONDE WIG  
AND A PONEY MOLE...



AMIDST THE QUIETUDE OF LUSH ALIEN FAUNA AND A BRIGHT EXTRATERRESTRIAL MOON, YOU **REWARD** THE WENCH WITH WANTON PLEASURES OF THE **FLESH**.

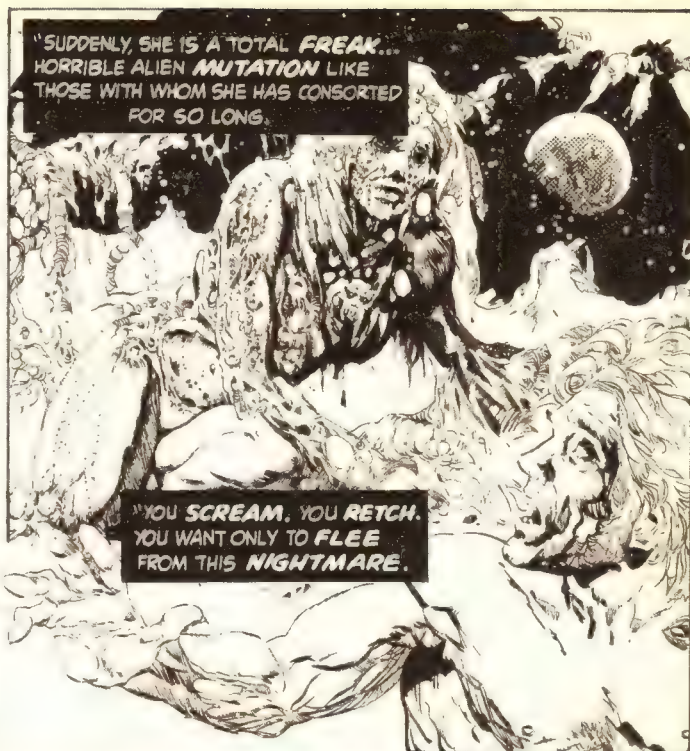
"YOU GRASP EACH OTHER IN HUNGRY SAVAGERY, AND ARE IN THE MIDST OF ECSTATIC REVERIES WHEN YOU FEEL SOMETHING **CREEPING...SLIMING** BETWEEN YOUR CLOSELY COMPRESSED BODIES."





"IT'S THE **GIRL**. HER SKIN IS **MELTING**... **WILTING** WITHIN YOUR MASCULINE GRASP.

"SHE **CHANGES** INTO PURE PUTRESCENT **GORE** BEFORE YOUR INCREDULOUS EYES.



"SUDDENLY, SHE IS A TOTAL **FREAK**... HORRIBLE ALIEN **MUTATION** LIKE THOSE WITH WHOM SHE HAS CONSORTED FOR SO LONG.

"YOU **SCREAM**. YOU **RETCH**. YOU WANT ONLY TO **FLEE** FROM THIS **NIGHTMARE**.



"BUT AS YOU PULL AWAY, PART OF HER **ARM** COMES WITH YOU.

"SHE **LAUGHS** AS IT **SEPARATES** FROM HER BODY...AND THOUSANDS OF TINY, GREENISH-GAPING **WORMS** SPILL OUT.

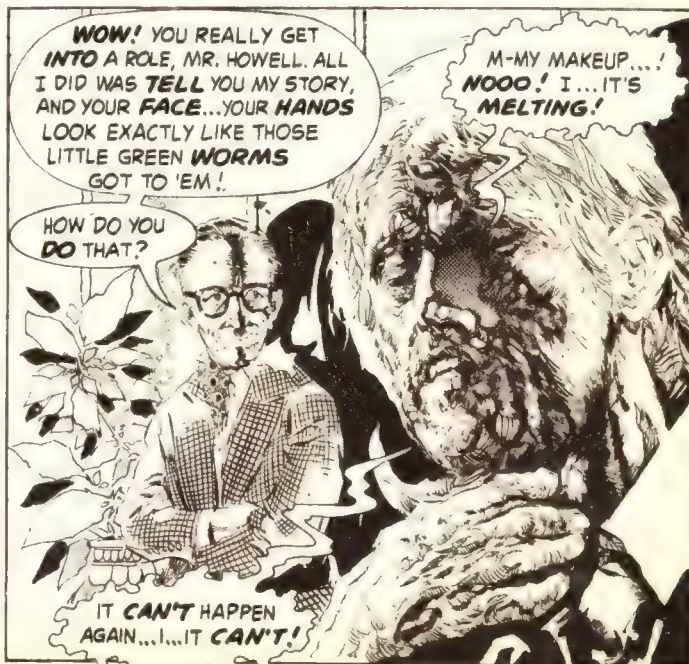
"LIKE A COSMIC-LIGHTNING-BOLT-IT **STRIKES** YOU...IN THE MIDST OF UN-ADULTERATED TERROR, IT ALL BECOMES SO **CLEAR**. SHE IS **NOT** A **FREAK**...A MISFIT LIKE THE OTHERS.

"SHE IS A **VICTIM**...A HORRIBLE, TRAGIC **MARTYR**, EATEN AWAY BY A DEADLY INTER-PLANETARY **SOCIAL DISEASE**.

"AND **NOW**...HER DISEASE IS ABSORBING YOU. THE **WORMS** **SMOTHER** YOU, **CHOKE** YOU, **CLOTTING** YOUR NOSTRILS...**EATING** INTO THE SOFT TISSUE THAT WAS ONCE A HANDSOME FACE.

"YOU TRY TO **SLAY** HER...**HACK** THE GIRL WITH YOUR **SABRE**. **KILL** THE SOURCE OF YOUR INEVITABLE DOOM. BUT IT'S HOPELESS. **MORE** MAGGOTS...**THOUSANDS** OF THEM **SPILL** FROM EACH NEW WOUND!

"YOU CAN ONLY SCREAM IN HORROR. BUT EVEN **THAT**... EVEN YOUR **MOUTH** IS EVENTUALLY CLOGGED WITH WORM, CRAWLING, CRUNCHY **WORMS**. AND FOR YOU...IT IS THE **END!**"



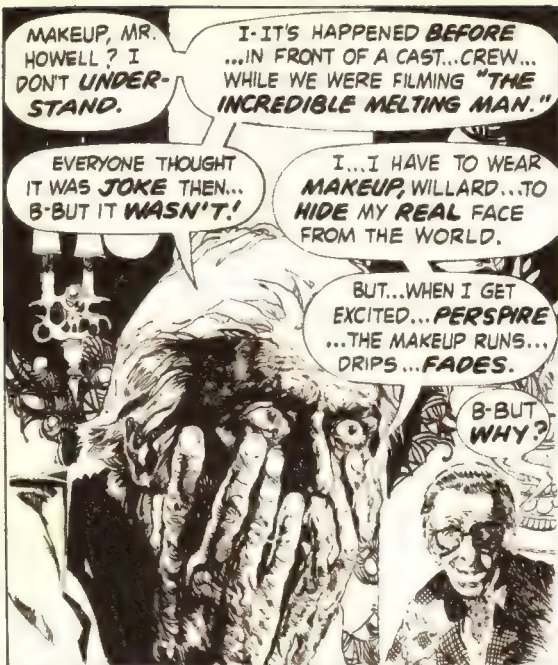
"**WOW!** YOU REALLY GET INTO A ROLE, MR. HOWELL. ALL I DID WAS **TELL** YOU MY STORY, AND YOUR **FACE**...YOUR **HANDS** LOOK EXACTLY LIKE THOSE LITTLE GREEN **WORMS** GOT TO 'EM!

"HOW DO YOU DO THAT?"

"M-MY MAKEUP...! **NOOO!** I...IT'S **MELTING!**"

"IT **CAN'T** HAPPEN AGAIN...!...IT **CAN'T!**"





MAKEUP, MR. HOWELL? I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

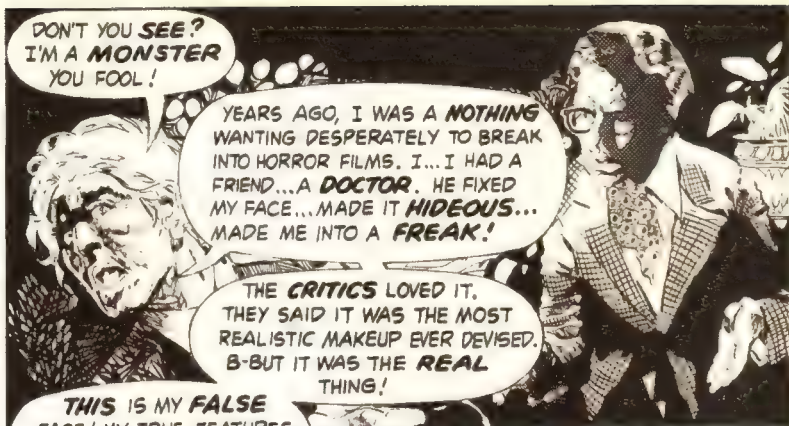
I-IT'S HAPPENED *BEFORE* ...IN FRONT OF A CAST...CREW... WHILE WE WERE FILMING "*THE INCREDIBLE MELTING MAN*."

EVERYONE THOUGHT IT WAS *JOKE* THEN... B-BUT IT *WASN'T*!

I...I HAVE TO WEAR *MAKEUP*, WILLARD...TO *HIDE* MY *REAL* FACE FROM THE WORLD.

BUT...WHEN I GET EXCITED...*PERSPIRE* ...THE *MAKEUP* RUNS... *DRIPS*...*FADES*.

B-BUT *WHY*?



DON'T YOU *SEE*? I'M A *MONSTER* YOU FOOL!

YEARS AGO, I WAS A *NOTHING* WANTING DESPERATELY TO BREAK INTO HORROR FILMS. I...I HAD A FRIEND...A *DOCTOR*. HE FIXED MY FACE...MADE IT *HIDEOUS*... MADE ME INTO A *FREAK*!

THE *CRITICS* LOVED IT. THEY SAID IT WAS THE MOST REALISTIC MAKEUP EVER DEVISED. B-BUT IT WAS THE *REAL* THING!

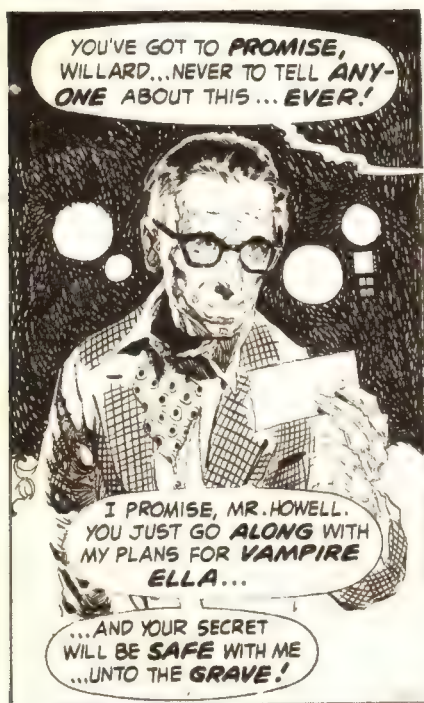
*THIS* IS MY *FALSE* FACE! MY TRUE FEATURES ARE MORE *HORRIBLE* THAN YOU CAN ENVISION.

MOST ASTONISHING.

IT'S AN INVITATION TO *DINE*... TONIGHT.

A MESSENGER JUST DELIVERED THIS *CARD* FROM AN ASSISTANT PRODUCER AT MALLETT FILMS.

ARE YOU SURE IT'S FOR *US*, PEN?



YOU'VE GOT TO *PROMISE*, WILLARD...NEVER TO TELL *ANY-ONE* ABOUT THIS...*EVER*!

I PROMISE, MR. HOWELL. YOU JUST GO *ALONG* WITH MY PLANS FOR *VAMPIRE ELLA*...

...AND YOUR SECRET WILL BE *SAFE* WITH ME ...UNTO THE *GRAVE*!

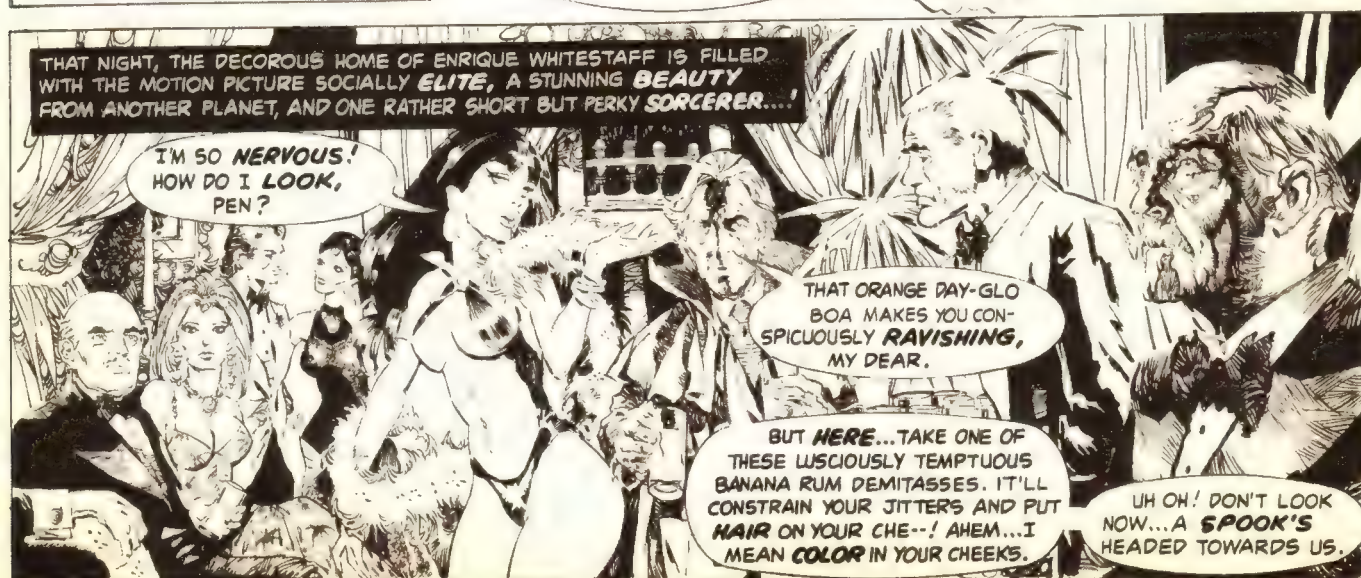


OH, HOW FOOLISH OF ME. IT'S ADDRESSED TO SOMEONE NAMED *VAMPIRE ELLA*.

IT'S FOR *US*!

WHAT WOULD A CREDITABLE *FILM* PRODUCER WANT WITH MERE PRESTIDIGITATORS?

WE'LL NEVER KNOW UNLESS WE *GO*, PEN!



THAT NIGHT, THE DECOROUS HOME OF ENRIQUE WHITESTAFF IS FILLED WITH THE MOTION PICTURE SOCIALLY *ELITE*, A STUNNING *BEAUTY* FROM ANOTHER PLANET, AND ONE RATHER SHORT BUT PERKY *SORCERER*...

I'M SO *NERVOUS*! HOW DO I *LOOK*, PEN?

THAT ORANGE DAY-GLO BOA MAKES YOU CONSPICUOUSLY *RAVISHING*, MY DEAR.

BUT *HERE*...TAKE ONE OF THESE LUSCIOUSLY TEMPTUOUS BANANA RUM DEMITASSES. IT'LL CONSTRAIN YOUR JITTERS AND PUT *HAIR* ON YOUR CHE--! AHEM...I MEAN *COLOR* IN YOUR CHEEKS.

UH OH! DON'T LOOK NOW...A *SPOOK'S* HEADED TOWARDS US.





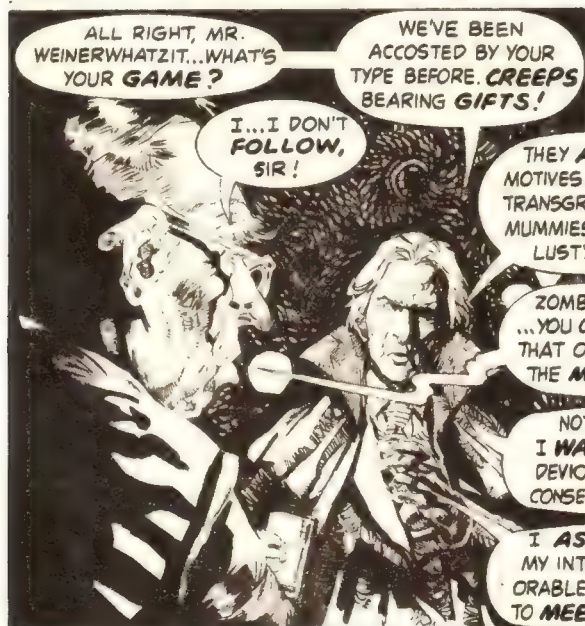
VAMPIRE ELLA!  
SWEET THING! I'M SO GLAD  
YOU COULD COME!

SO SORRY. I'M  
WILLARD  
WEINERBERGER!

THAT'S  
VAMPIRELLA,  
SIR! ONE E,  
ONE WORD!

MY EMPLOYERS, MR.  
WHITESTAFF AND MR. HOWELL  
ARE SO LOOKING FORWARD  
TO MEETING YOU.

WHAT'S THIS  
ALL ABOUT?



ALL RIGHT, MR.  
WEINERWHATZIT...WHAT'S  
YOUR GAME?

WE'VE BEEN  
ACCOSTED BY YOUR  
TYPE BEFORE. CREEPS  
BEARING GIFTS!

I...I DON'T  
FOLLOW,  
SIR!

THEY ALL HAVE ULTERIOR  
MOTIVES...AND ARE EVER-  
TRANSGRESSING INTO ZOMBIES,  
MUMMIES, HEADHUNTERS OR  
LUSTY SUN GODS!

ZOMBIES? GOOD LORD  
...YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!  
THAT ONLY HAPPENS IN  
THE MOVIES, SIR!

NOT WITH US IT DOESN'T.  
I WARN YOU...IF YOU'VE A  
DEVIANT PLOT AFOOT, THE  
CONSEQUENCES CAN BE DIRE!

I ASSURE YOU, SIR,  
MY INTENTIONS ARE HON-  
ORABLE. I WANT YOU ONLY  
TO MEET MY ASSOCIATES.



HERE'S MR.  
HOWELL NOW!

VAMPIRELLA! YOU'RE  
EVERY INCH AS BEAUTIFUL AS  
WILLARD DESCRIBED YOU.

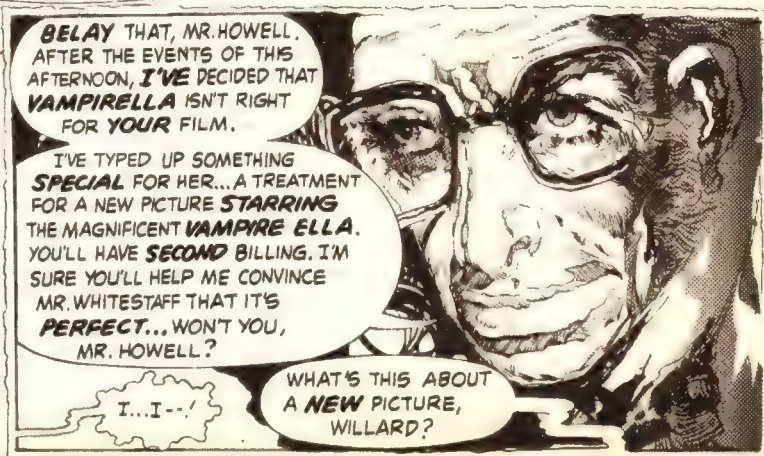
I HOPE YOU CAN BE  
CONVINCED TO SIGN WITH  
MALLETT FILMS. WE'VE A  
MOST PROMISING SCRIPT  
READY FOR PRODUCTION.



IT'S ABOUT  
YOU, LOVE!

WHEN I SAW YOUR ACT  
ON TELEVISION THIS MORNING,  
I SAID TO MYSELF, NOW THAT  
GIRL WAS BORN TO BE A STAR!

I THINK YOU AND MALLETT  
FILMS CAN BE MUTUALLY  
BENEFICIAL TO ONE  
ANOTHER!



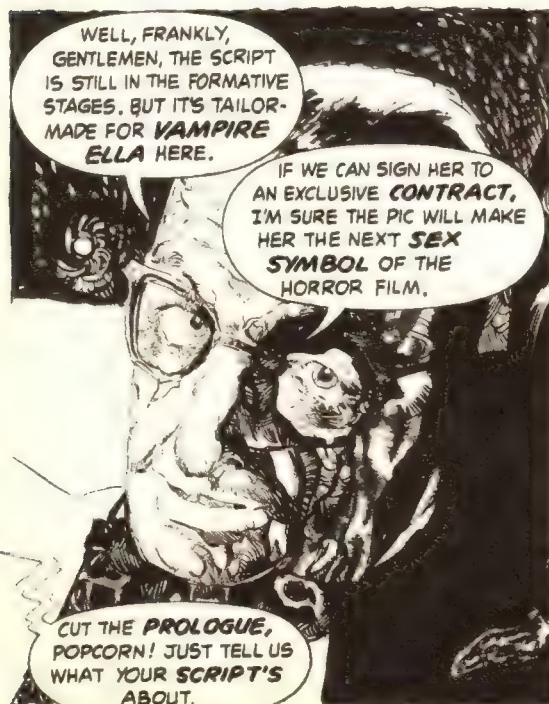
BELAY THAT, MR. HOWELL.  
AFTER THE EVENTS OF THIS  
AFTERNOON, I'VE DECIDED THAT  
VAMPIRELLA ISN'T RIGHT  
FOR YOUR FILM.

I'VE TYPED UP SOMETHING  
SPECIAL FOR HER...A TREATMENT  
FOR A NEW PICTURE STARRING  
THE MAGNIFICENT VAMPIRE ELLA.  
YOU'LL HAVE SECOND BILLING. I'M  
SURE YOU'LL HELP ME CONVINCE  
MR. WHITESTAFF THAT IT'S  
PERFECT...WON'T YOU,  
MR. HOWELL?

I...I--!

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT  
A NEW PICTURE,  
WILLARD?







"WE OPEN WITH A HOARDE OF SCREECHING RELIGIOUS FANATICS BEARING DOWN **HARD** ON THE HAPLESS, SCANTILY CLAD MATILDA.



"THEY **LEAP** AT HER. THE MUSIC THUNDERS TO A CRESCENDO. THEY DRAG HER DOWN... **TEAR** AT HER. COMMENCE UNSPEAKABLE ACTS. THE CREDITS ROLL.

"THE MUSIC RAGES TO A HALT. AND WE SEE MATILDA, HARRIED, ABUSED, CONFUSED AND FRIGHTENED, HER CHIN JUTTED IN DEFIANCE, AS SHE STANDS BEFORE **FLASHMAN**, THE SENILE ELDER PRIEST.

"YOU'RE ACCUSED OF HEINOUS ATROCITIES AGAINST THE **LORD'S** CHOSEN BARBARIANS," HE BELLOWES.

"AND **WHO** ACCUSES ME?" THE COMBATIVE GIRL SQUEAKS PITIABLY.



"THE WICKED PRIEST CACKLES AS MATILDA IS STRAPPED DOWN...HER BODY **PULLED APART** BY THE BONE-WRENCHING INSTRUMENT OF TERROR. YET, THE BRAVE GIRL, IN UNBEARABLE **AGONY**, REFUSES TO **CRY OUT**... MUCH TO FLASHMAN'S CONSTERNATION.

"MY GOD. HE INFORMED ME OF YOUR DIABOLIC PLOT TO **SEDUCE** MY ARMIES INTO WHIMPERING **SURRENDER**."

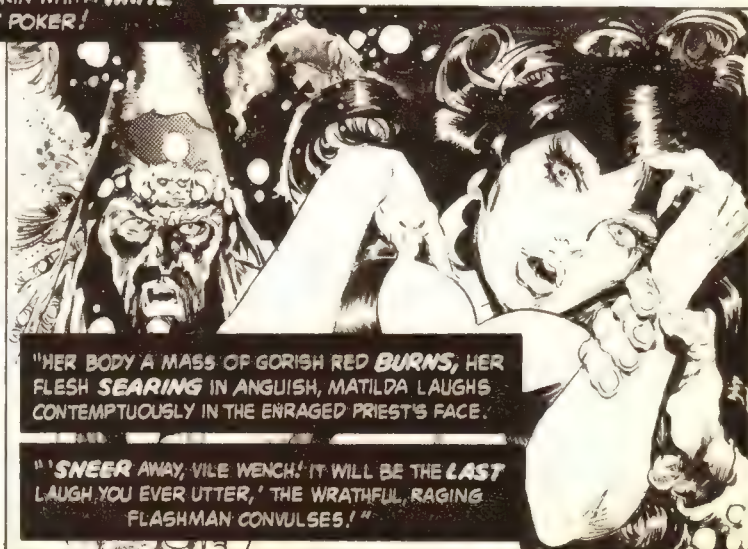
"YOUR GOD TELLS **TALES!**" MATILDA COUNTERS BELLIGERENTLY.

"SHE CALLS HIM A **LIAR**. TO THE **RACK** WITH HER," CHOKES FLASHMAN!

"TO THE **IRONS** WITH HER!" THE ENRAGED PRIEST CRIES. AND IN SECONDS, A SADISTIC, GIGGLING HEADSMAN IS BURNING HUGE WELTISH **HOLES** INTO THE PRETTY GIRL'S SKIN WITH A **WHITE HOT** POKER!



"AND **STILL** MATILDA GRITS HER TEETH IN PAIN-WRACKED **DEFIANCE**, REFUSING TO SCREAM OUT!



"HER BODY A MASS OF GORISH RED **BURNS**, HER FLESH **SEARING** IN ANGUISH, MATILDA LAUGHS CONTEMPTUOUSLY IN THE ENRAGED PRIEST'S FACE.

"**'SNEER** AWAY, VILE WENCH! IT WILL BE THE **LAST** LAUGH YOU EVER UTTER," THE WRATHFUL, RAGING FLASHMAN CONVULSES!



"AND THEN, IN A VIRULENT, BITTERLY FURIOUS **RAGE**, FLASHMAN **WAILS** FOR HIS **SOLDIERS...HIS PRIESTS...HIS FOLLOWERS** TO SURROUND HIM.

"THE ATTENTIVE ENMASSMENT OF VILE, HUMAN DEBRIS LISTEN LECHEROUSLY AS THE PRIEST **HURLS** A FINAL, THUNDEROUS **THREAT** TOWARDS THE CONTEMPTUOUS BEAUTY Languishing SILENTLY AT HIS FEET.

"YOU **LAUGHED** WHEN MY GOD COMMANDED THAT YOUR BODY BE BROKEN, STRETCHED, TWISTED INTO EXCRUCIATING AGONY BY THE TORTUROUS **RACK**, SNARLED THE HATEFUL PRIEST.

"YOU **JEERED** WHEN HIS HOT **IRON** SEERED AWAY YOUR DAMNABLE FLESH!"

"LAUGH **NOW...**IF YOU **CAN**, YOU VENEMOUS ENTITY OF EVIL, WHILE EACH OF HIS **TRUE BELIEVERS** PERFORM HIS LUSTFUL **WILL** UPON YOUR PERSONAGE IN HIS NAME."



"THE INCREDULOUS GIRL **GASPS** AND LOOKS LAMENTABLY INTO THE CAMERAS AS IF TO SAY: **THIS IS TORTURE?**

"THEN THE SCREEN **CLIMAXES** IN A CONFUSED SWIRL OF MUSIC, COLORS AND VISUAL MADNESS, AS IF TO SIMULATE THE MIND-WRENCHING TORTURES THE PITIABLE GIRL MUST ENDURE."





"AND WHEN IT IS OVER AND THE LAST FATIGUED SOLDIER PAINFULLY **LIMPS** INTO THE DARKNESS, FLASHMAN AGAIN HEARS THE SCORNFUL **SMUGGER** OF MATILDA THE HAPPY HUN!"

"INFURIATED, THE PRIEST ORDERS THE GIRL BROUGHT **BEFORE** HIM."



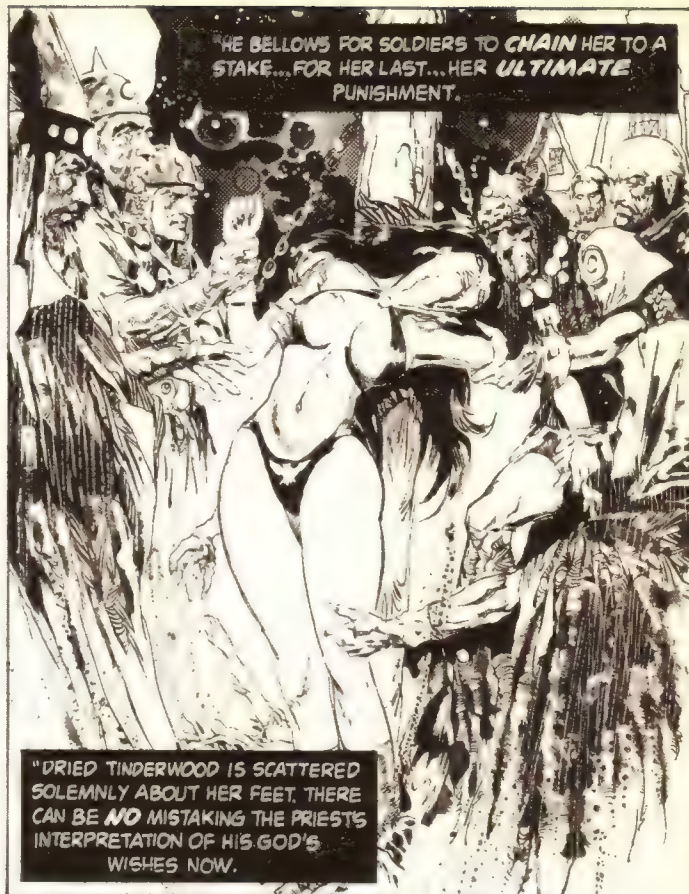
"AND AS THE TORCH IS DROPPED AND THE FLAMES **LICK** EVER **UPWARD**, CRINKLING, BLACKENING THE ONCE BEAUTIFUL BODY, THE CHORUS **INTONES** A TEAR-JERKING MEDLEY!"

"THE CREDITS ROLL AGAIN... AND FOR MATILDA, IT IS UNQUESTIONABLY **THE END!**"



IT'S GHASTLY. LOATHSOME. TOTALLY DESPICABLE SADISTIC **EXPLOITATION.**

RIGHT ON, LOVE! IT'S EXACTLY WHAT THE PUBLIC **WANTS!** IT'LL GROSS **THIRTY MILLION** EASY!



HE BELLOWES FOR SOLDIERS TO **CHAIN** HER TO A **STAKE... FOR HER LAST... HER ULTIMATE PUNISHMENT.**

"DRIED TINDERWOOD IS SCATTERED SOLEMNLY ABOUT HER FEET. THERE CAN BE **NO** MISTAKING THE PRIEST'S INTERPRETATION OF HIS GOD'S WISHES NOW."



I **ADMIT**, THE **PLOT'S** NOT MUCH. BUT IT'S **ACTION-PACKED**. REMINDS ME OF MY **COMIC BOOK DAYS.**

AFTER THE FIRST PIC, WE'LL HIT 'EM WITH "**RETURN OF MATILDA HUN.**" "**SON OF MATILDA THE HUN**" ... AD INFINATUM!

IT'LL BE THE BIGGEST MOTION PICTURE SERIES SINCE **ANDY HARDY!**





I WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS NONSENSICAL FARCE!

YOU'RE **NOT** MOTION PICTURE PRODUCERS. YOU'RE CHEAP, SLEAZY **EXPLOITERS**, TWISTING THE MINDS AND VALUES OF UNSUSPECTING MOVIEGOERS.

THAT'S WHAT THIS BUSINESS IS ALL ABOUT, HONEY!



YES... I SEE IT ALL NOW!

YOU **BRAINWASH** INNOCENT PEOPLE UNTIL THEY'RE EATING FROM YOUR **GRIMY** HANDS! WHAT **BETTER** WAY TO **ENSLAVE** THEM... TO TAKE OVER THE **WORLD**!

YOU'RE WICKED, VILE **DECEIVERS**, POLLUTING ONE OF EARTH'S MOST POWERFUL, MOST INFLUENTIAL INDUSTRIES!

YES! NOW I UNDERSTAND! YOU... YOU'RE ALL SERVANTS OF THE MAD GOD **CHAOS**... WAITING TO **HUMBLE** MANKIND!

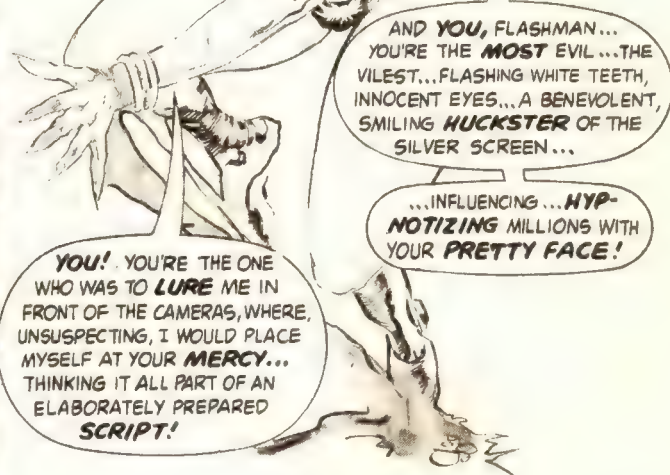
CHAOS? W-WHAT'S **CHAOS**?



AND THERE... **THERE** YOU WERE TO DELIVER THE FINAL **DEATHBLOW**... AND ELIMINATE **VAMPIRELLA** FOREVER!

NO! **NOOOO!** I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! **AAIEEE!**

M-MY GOD! GET HER OFF HIM! **STOP HER!**



AND **YOU**, FLASHMAN... YOU'RE THE **MOST** EVIL... THE VILEST... FLASHING WHITE TEETH, INNOCENT EYES... A BENEVOLENT, SMILING **HUCKSTER** OF THE SILVER SCREEN...

...INFLUENCING... **HYPNOTIZING** MILLIONS WITH YOUR **Pretty FACE**!

**YOU!** YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WAS TO **LURE** ME IN FRONT OF THE CAMERAS, WHERE, UNSUSPECTING, I WOULD PLACE MYSELF AT YOUR **MERCY**... THINKING IT ALL PART OF AN ELABORATELY PREPARED **SCRIPT**!



HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT. I DRAINED ONLY ENOUGH BLOOD TO MAKE HIM **ANEMIC** FOR A MONTH.

ANOTHER OF **CHAO'S** GROTESQUE **PUPPETS**!

BUT **LOOK**, PEN... HIS **FACE**! I MUST HAVE SMEARED **FLASHMAN'S MAKE-UP**. HE... HE'S **HIDEOUS**!

I'M NOT SO **SURE**, DEAR GIRL. THE MAN SEEMED GENUINELY **CONFUSED** AT THE MERE MENTION OF **CHAOS**.



BUT WHAT ABOUT WILLARD'S **SCRIPT**, PEN... HIS REFERENCE TO DOING THEIR "**GOD'S**" WILL?

PURE **SATIRE**, MY DEAR. I'M SURE IT WAS THE MEREST **COINCIDENCE**. THEY WERE NOT MAKING REFERENCE TO THE **MAD GOD**!

**PEN**...! YOU MEAN WE MIGHT HAVE BLOWN OUR ONLY **REAL** CHANCE AT BECOMING **MATINEE IDOLS**?

I WOULD THINK THAT'S A **DISTINCT** POSSIBILITY...

...BUT **FRANKLY**, MY DEAR... I DON'T GIVE A DAMN!



# THE HOUSE at BLOOD CORNER

I CONSIDER IT AN INDISPUTABLE TRUTH THAT ALL LEGITIMATE **HAUNTED HOUSES** ARE LOCATED IN RURAL **NEW ENGLAND**. PERHAPS BECAUSE THE PURITAN ETHIC WAS SO ADAMANT, THEY FOUND IT NECESSARY TO RETURN FOR A SECOND LIFE TO COMPENSATE FOR THE MISERY OF THE FIRST.

IT IS ALSO **IRREFUTABLE** THAT HAUNTED HOUSES ARE **GOTHIC** IN DESIGN, HAVE SEVEN OR MORE **GABLES**, AND WERE BUILT AT LEAST A CENTURY AGO.

**THORISON HOUSE** MET NONE OF THESE PREREQUISITES, YET RUMORS STILL PERSIST THAT IT IS **HAUNTED**.



IT WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1921 FOR **PAUL THORISON**, PERHAPS THE MOST **INNOVATIVE** HORROR FILM STAR OF THE EARLY CINEMA, ALSO THE MOST **DEBAGED**.

THE **SCANDAL** THAT ACCOMPANIED HIS **DEATH** DISCLOSED **DEBAUCHERY**, **SADISM**, AND **ORGIES** THAT WOULD MAKE **DE SADE ENVIOUS**. IT IS NOW **FIFTEEN YEARS** SINCE HIS PASSING, AND HIS NAME IS VIRTUALLY **FORGOTTEN** BY ALL BUT FILM **HISTORIANS**.



... AND THOSE WHO HAVE LIVED IN **THORISON HOUSE**.





MY NAME IS GERALD NOVAK. I AM ONE OF THE AFOREMENTIONED **HISTORIANS**, PRESENTLY RESEARCHING A **BIOGRAPHY** OF THE FORMIDABLE MR. THORISON. THE COMELY CONSORT AT MY SIDE IS MY WIFE, **CHRISTINE**.

ODD. I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D RESTORE THE **ELECTRICITY** BEFORE **TOMMORROW**.



MR. ROTH PROBABLY FIGURED THAT KNOWING THE **HISTORY** OF THIS HOUSE, WE WOULDN'T WANT TO SPEND A DARK **NIGHT** HERE.

YOU'RE ALWAYS **EVASIVE** ON THE SUBJECT OF THIS HOUSE... **WHY?**

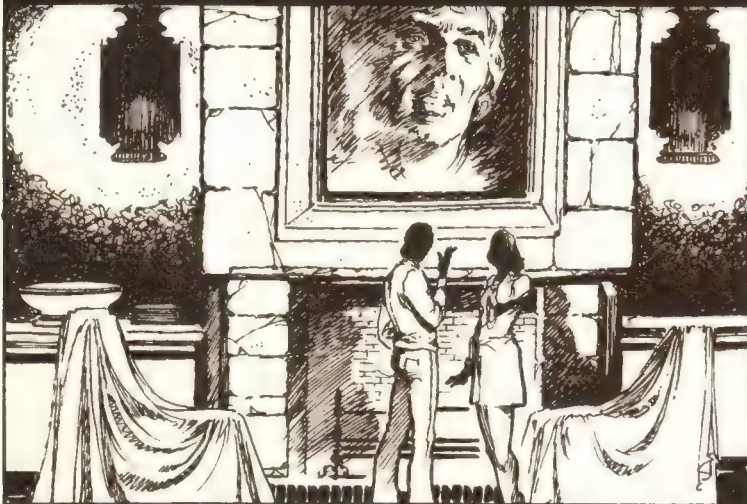


BECAUSE IT IS SO **LUDICROUS**, I COULDN'T SEE **TROUBLING** YOU WITH IT. I AM A **JOURNALIST** OF SORTS, AND ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS I LEARNED IS TO SEPARATE **FACT** AND **FICTION**. THE ANNALS OF THORISON HOUSE ARE MOSTLY **FABRICATIONS**...

THEN YOU SHOULDN'T BE AFRAID TO **TELL** ME.



"ALL RIGHT. TO **BEGIN** WITH THERE WAS **THORISON**. YOU ALREADY **KNOW** ABOUT HIM, EXCEPT PERHAPS HOW HE **DIED**, SINCE THE DETAILS WERE **SUPPRESSED** IN THE NEWS. IT IS REPUTED HE WAS **WALLED UP ALIVE** SOMEWHERE IN THIS HOUSE BY A **WOMAN** HE HAD **DRIVEN MAD!**"

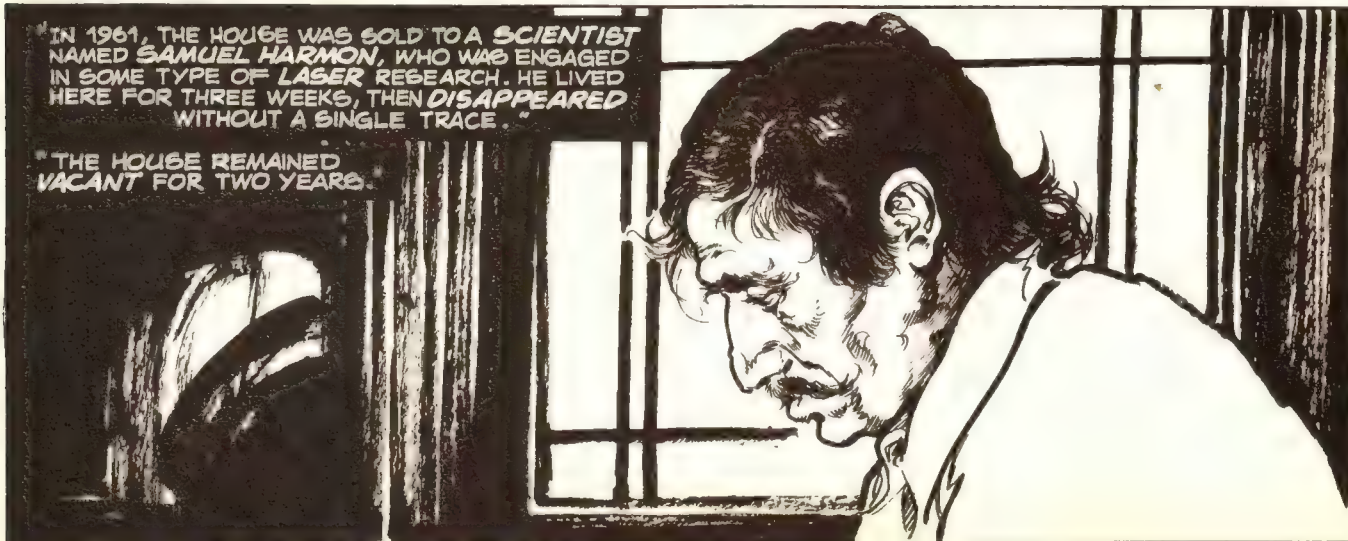


"SHE **CONFESSED** TO THE POLICE, WHICH WAS HOW THE **OTHER SORDID SCANDALS** CAME TO LIGHT, BUT THORISON'S BODY WAS NEVER **FOUND**, AND THE WOMAN DIED A MONTH LATER IN THE **STATE ASYLUM**."



"IN 1961, THE HOUSE WAS SOLD TO A **SCIENTIST** NAMED **SAMUEL HARMON**, WHO WAS ENGAGED IN SOME TYPE OF **LASER RESEARCH**. HE LIVED HERE FOR THREE WEEKS, THEN **DISAPPEARED** WITHOUT A SINGLE **TRACE**."

"THE HOUSE REMAINED **VACANT** FOR TWO YEARS."





THEN CAME RICHARD LYLE. THEY FOUND HIM IN THE BEDROOM. THE OFFICIAL CAUSE OF DEATH WAS **CORONARY**, BUT EXPERT OPINION IS THAT HE DIED OF **FRIGHT**.

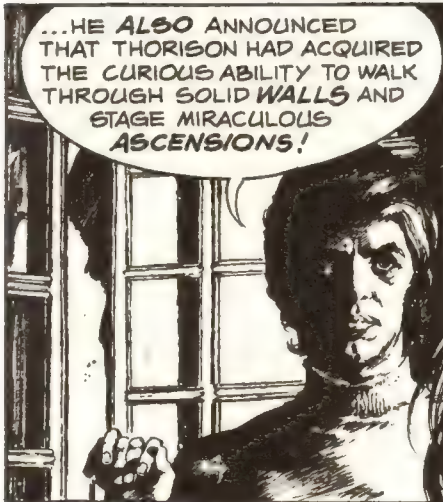


FINALLY THERE WAS AVERY MARLON, THE ONLY MAN TO **SURVIVE** THORISON HOUSE. ALTHOUGH HIS MIND WAS NEVER QUITE THE SAME. HE CLAIMS TO HAVE ACTUALLY **SEEN** PAUL THORISON.



...HE **ALSO** ANNOUNCED THAT THORISON HAD ACQUIRED THE CURIOUS ABILITY TO WALK THROUGH SOLID **WALLS** AND STAGE MIRACULOUS **ASCENSIONS**!

SURELY YOU SEE WHY I **DISCREDIT** THESE FAIRY TALES....!



A TRIFLE **CRUEL** PERHAPS, BUT I FOUND CHRISTINE'S NERVOUS SILENCE **AMUSING**. SHE HAS EVER BEEN **SUSCEPTIBLE** TO OCCULT **SUGGESTION**, YET I FELT LITTLE **SYMPATHY** AT THIS MOMENT. AFTER ALL, IT WAS SHE WHO **FORCED** THE QUESTION.



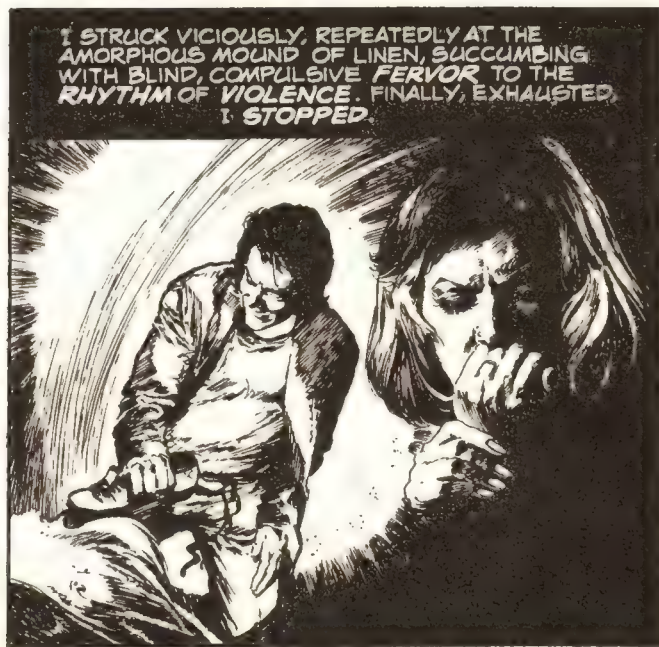
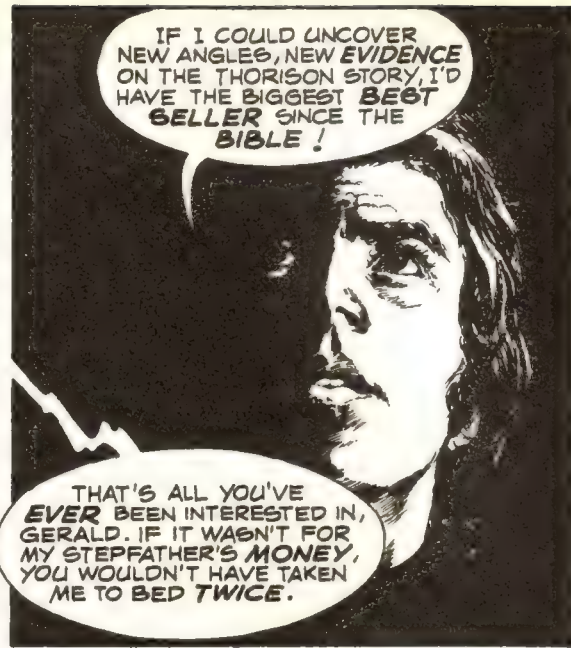
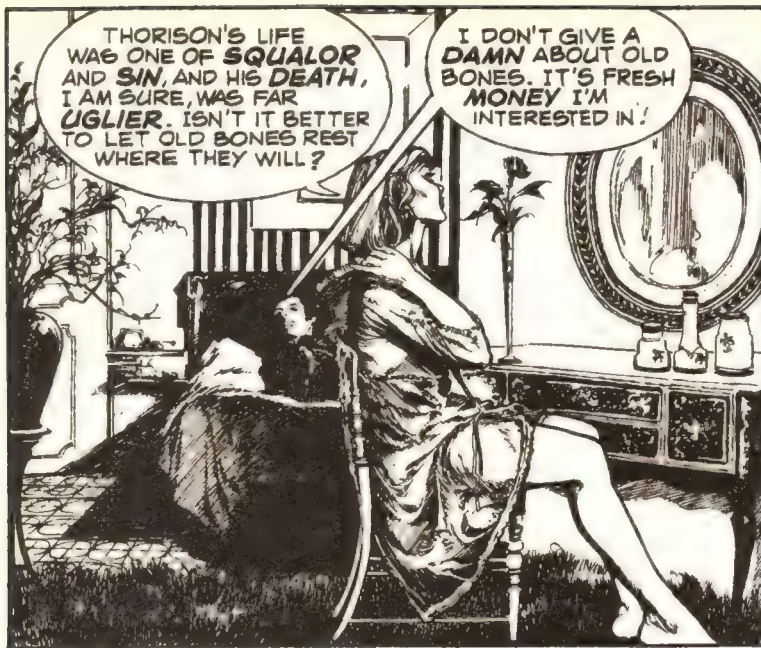
AS WE RETIRED INTO THE MASTER BEDROOM...

GERALD, DO YOU THINK IT'S POSSIBLE WE MADE A **MISTAKE** LEASING THIS PLACE?

OF COURSE NOT. WHAT **BETTER** PLACE TO COMPILE THE **TRUE** STORY OF PAUL THORISON THAN IN THE HOUSE WERE HE **LIVED** AND **DIED**.











NOTHING... IT'S GONE! I THINK THIS PLACE IS STRAINING OUR IMAGINATION!

YOU CAN TAKE YOUR IMAGINATION AND SIT ON IT! I KNOW WHAT I SAW...!



REALLY, CHRISTINE... A PHANTOM RAT? THAT'S A BIT TENUOUS EVEN FOR THORISON HOUSE!

THE NIGHT PASSED WITHOUT FURTHER INCIDENT, AND WE AGREED THAT THE RAT EPISODE WAS BEST KEPT PRIVATE.



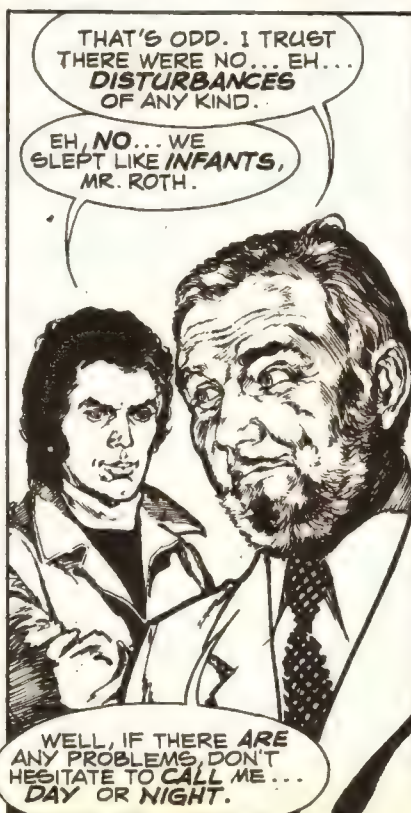
THE FOLLOWING NOON, I HAD SCHEDULED A CONFERENCE WITH MY PUBLISHER IN L.A. CHRISTINE ASKED ME TO CANCEL, BUT I POLITELY PERSUADED HER IT WAS NOT IN OUR BEST INTERESTS TO DO SO.



SHE CONCEDED RELUCTANTLY, BUT BEFORE I REACHED THE CAR, I ENCOUNTERED SONI ROTH THE BROKER WHO LEASED US THE ESTATE.

GOOD AFTERNOON, MR. NOVAK. I JUST STOPPED BY TO SEE IF THE ELECTRICITY WAS ON, AND IF EVERYTHING ELSE WAS SATISFACTORY.

YES THE ELECTRICITY WAS ON WHEN WE ARRIVED LAST NIGHT.



THAT'S ODD. I TRUST THERE WERE NO... EH... DISTURBANCES OF ANY KIND.

EH, NO... WE SLEPT LIKE INFANTS, MR. ROTH.

WELL, IF THERE ARE ANY PROBLEMS, DON'T HESITATE TO CALL ME... DAY OR NIGHT.



HE HANDED ME A BUSINESS CARD, WHICH I FILED ABSENTLY IN MY POCKET, AND SET OUT FOR MY APPOINTMENT. THE PUBLISHER ADMONISHED ME FOR TWO HOURS ABOUT THE INSUFFICIENT DOSAGES OF SEX AND VIOLENCE IN MY WORKS.

I ASSURED HIM MY NEXT BOOK WOULD RECTIFY THAT.



I RETURNED HOME ABOUT 4 P.M. CHRISTINE KNELT WIMPERING, IN THE FOYER WHEN I ARRIVED.

CHRISTINE...  
WHAT ON EARTH  
HAPPENED?

IT WAS  
THORISON.  
GERALD... I  
SAW HIM!

IMPOSSIBLE.  
CHRISTINE! PERHAPS  
IT WAS MR.  
ROTH...!

IF THAT PORTRAIT  
OVER THE FIREPLACE  
IS THORISON, THEN  
THAT'S THE MAN I SAW.  
HE CAME RIGHT THROUGH  
THE WALL OF THE  
DRAWING ROOM.  
DON'T TELL ME MR.  
ROTH CAN DO THAT!

THROUGH THE WALL...?  
CHRISTINE, YOU'RE HYSTERICAL.  
MEN DON'T WALK THROUGH WALLS  
... ESPECIALLY DEAD MEN.

WHO'S GOING  
TO TELL HIM THAT?  
I SURE AS HELL  
DON'T INTEND TO.

SHE SLEPT THAT NIGHT WITH  
THE AID OF TRANQUILIZERS.

I REACHED FOR ANOTHER CIGARETTE AND  
FOUND THE BUSINESS CARD SONI ROTH HAD  
GIVEN ME. I CHUCKLED SOURLY...

THE POOR BASTARD WOULD NEVER  
LEASE THIS PLACE AGAIN IF WE DIED.

I, ON THE OTHER HAND, COULD NOT  
SLEEP AT ALL. A COOL DRAFT, WITH NO  
DISCERNABLE POINT OF ORIGIN, SWEEPED  
THE ROOM, WHISPERING OF DEEDS  
ANCIENT AND FOUL. I STARED  
SULLENLY AT THE PORTRAIT OF  
PAUL THORISON... SOMETHING ABOUT IT  
DISTURBED ME, BUT THE CAUSE OF  
MY UNEASINESS ESCAPED ME.





THE COLD, MALEVOLENT EYES OF THORISON'S PORTRAIT CONTINUED TO STARE... LIKE A HAUNTING MOCKERY, **DARING ME, DEFYING ME.** HE WAS A PUZZLE... AN **ANAGRAM** WAITING TO BE SOLVED.

THE PHRASE LOCKED IN MY MIND.



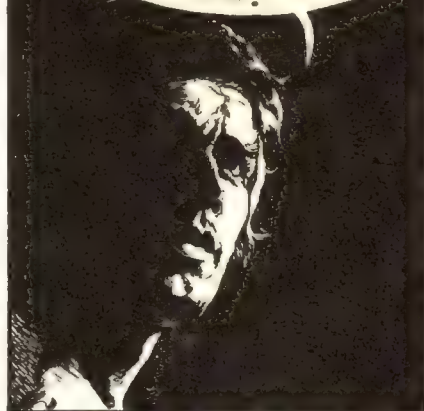
AND EVEN THE ETHEREAL APPEARANCE OF PAUL THORISON COULDN'T DRIVE IT OUT.

INTRUDER... BY WHAT RIGHT DO YOU DEFILE MY HOUSE?



AN IMPRESSIVE ENTRANCE, MR. THORISON... OR DO YOU PREFER TO BE CALLED MR. ROTH?

YOU CAN SPARE THE THEATRICALS, THORISON... THOUGH YOU ALWAYS DID HAVE A FLAIR FOR THE MELODRAMATIC. SON! ROTH... THORISON... YOU LET YOUR EGOMANIA BETRAY YOU THIS TIME!



CONGRATULATIONS, MR. NOVAK... YOU ARE THE FIRST TO DECIPHER IT. WOULD YOU CARE TO EXPLAIN HOW I MANAGED THE REST OF THIS LITTLE CHARADE?



CERTAINLY, MR. THORISON. HOLOGRAMS! LASER IMAGES WHICH CAN REPRODUCE A THREE DIMENSIONAL PICTURE! TELL ME... HOW IS DR. HARMON?

DOING QUITE WELL. AS YOU GUESSED, IT WAS HE WHO CONSTRUCTED THE HOLOGRAMS ACCORDING TO MY DESIGN.



BUT WHY?

TO PROVE THAT I AM STILL THE GREATEST HORROR FILM CREATOR OF ALL TIME! THE STUDIOS WOULD NOT TAKE MY WORK SERIOUSLY... THEY GAVE ME SECOND-RATE SCRIPTS, AND PEOPLE CEASED BEING FRIGHTENED BY PAUL THORISON!

TWO-DIMENSIONAL MONSTERS WERE JUST NOT CONVINCING ANYMORE!



SO I ARRANGED A FAKE DEATH AND SCANDAL, THROUGH MY CONNECTIONS WITH THE LOCAL PRESS, TO LEND AUTHENTICITY TO THE LEGENDS OF THORISON HOUSE.

THEN I CREATED MY THREE DIMENSIONAL HORROR FILMS HERE... WHERE I COULD FRIGHTEN PEOPLE AS I USED TO, ONLY NOW ON A ONE-TO-ONE BASIS!





I WOULD SAY YOU SUCCEEDED **ADMIRABLY** IN THE CASES OF LYLE AND MARLON. THE QUESTION NOW IS... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ME?

I WANT TO **EMPLOY** YOU, MR. NOVAK... TO DO EXACTLY WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS **INTENDED**! WRITE THE **TRUE** STORY OF PAUL THORISON...!

I WANT THE WORLD TO KNOW WHAT A **GENIUS** I AM! WHAT **OTHER** FILM STAR HAS LITERALLY **FRIGHTENED** A MAN TO **DEATH**?

I AM OLD NOW... **DYING**. BY THE TIME THE TRUTH IS **PUBLISHED** I'LL BE **GONE**. YOUR BOOK WILL BE MY **LEGACY**... A **TESTIMONIAL** TO MY **CREATIVITY**.

AND THE **MONEY** FROM THE **BOOK**...?

IT'S **YOURS**, MR. NOVAK. I WILL NO LONGER HAVE ANY **NEED** FOR IT.

THEN WE HAVE OURSELVES A **DEAL**, THORISON.

NOT **QUITE** GERALD.

CHRISTINE... WHERE DID YOU GET THE **GUN**?

THAT DOESN'T **MATTER**, GERALD. THE ONLY THING YOU HAVE TO KNOW IS THAT I'M GOING TO **USE** IT.

BUT **WHY**... AND ON **WHOM**?

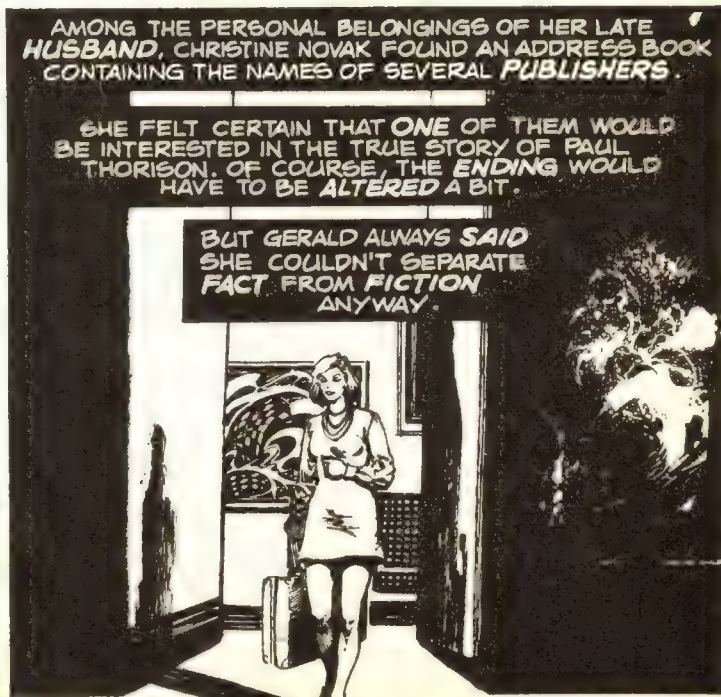
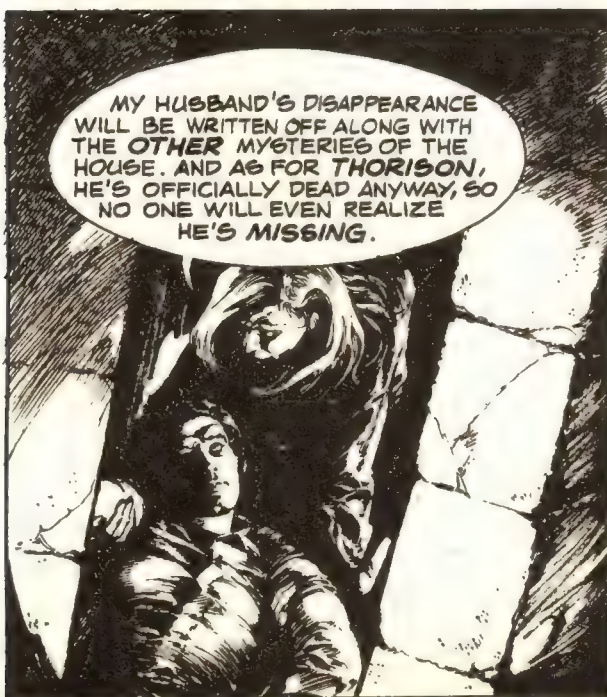
YOU WERE ONLY INTERESTED IN MY **STEP-FATHER** AND HIS **MONEY**, GERALD. YOU NEVER TOOK THE TIME TO CHECK OUT THE **REST** OF MY FAMILY BACKGROUND. LIKE THE **IDENTITY** OF MY **TRUE** FATHER!

YOUR **TRUE** FATHER... WHO WAS HE?

HIS NAME WAS... **RICHARD LYLE**.

I WAS ONLY A **TEENAGER** THEN... WILD AND **EMOTIONAL** PERHAPS. BUT I **SWORE** I WOULD **FIND OUT** WHAT **REALLY** KILLED MY FATHER... AND SEE ITS **PERPETRATORS** **DEAD**!







# PROLOGUE

"OBSERVE CLOSELY, IF YOU WILL, YOU ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS A MARVELOUS TECHNOLOGICAL **ACHIEVEMENT...** THE MOST ADVANCED STRUGGLE AGAINST THE **INHERITORS... THE AID-1.**"



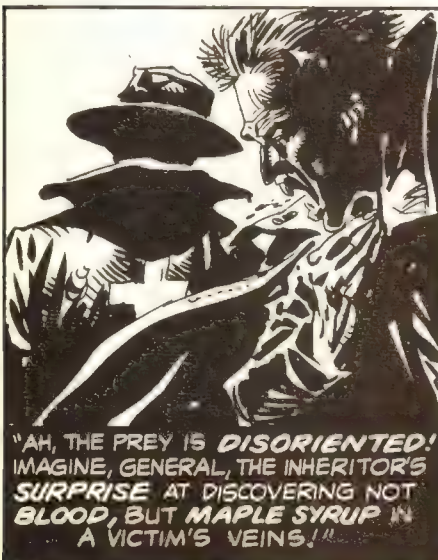
"FASHIONED FROM A NEWLY DEVELOPED SYNTHETIC, SIMILAR TO **PLEXIGLASS**, ITS **LIFE-SUPPORT SYSTEMS** ARE TOTALLY **AUTONOMOUS**. FUELED BY ATOMIC POWER, IT IS PROGRAMMED FOR A **SINGLE PURPOSE: THE EXTERMINATION OF INHERITORS!**"



THERE, THE INHERITOR TRANSFORMS SHAPE... BARES HIS FANGS AND MAKES THE FATAL LUNGE.

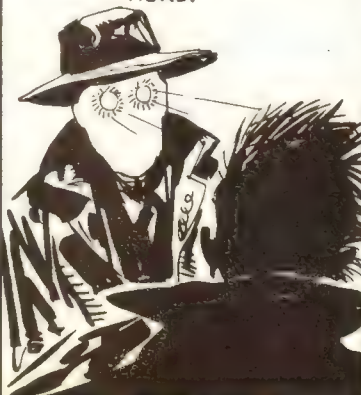


"IN A MOMENT... THE **ATTACK!** NOTICE, PLEASE, HOW SMOOTHLY AND EFFICIENTLY THE **AID FUNCTIONS**. THE LITTLE MONSTER COST NEARLY **THREE MILLION DOLLARS**, BUT THAT'S A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF OUR KIND."



"AH, THE PREY IS **DISORIENTED!** IMAGINE, GENERAL, THE INHERITOR'S **SURPRISE** AT DISCOVERING NOT **BLOOD**, BUT **MAPLE SYRUP** IN A VICTIM'S VEINS!"

"FINALLY, THE **KILL!** SIMULATED **SOLAR RAYS** EMITTED FROM THE **AID'S 'EYES'**... AS DEADLY AS ACTUAL **SUNLIGHT** TO THE INHERITORS."




"THERE YOU HAVE IT, GENERAL. OUR CONCEALED **CAMERA** HAS BROUGHT YOU AN ACTUAL **TEST DEMONSTRATION** OF THE **AID-1... THE ANTI-INHERITOR DECOY...**"



...THE FIRST NUCLEAR **VAMPIRE SLAYER!**"



# Stake- OUT!




I'M IMPRESSED, MAJOR KOBIN. PERSONALLY, I BELIEVE **GENOCIDE** IS THE **ONLY** WAY TO HANDLE THOSE SAVAGES. WE SHOULD HAVE ERADICATED THEM TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, **BEFORE** THEY BECAME A POLITICAL ISSUE.

I AGREE, BUT THE PATRIARCHS WOULDN'T HEAR OF IT THEN. THE ARKONIAN WAR HAD ALREADY **DECIMATED** HALF THE PLANET, AND **CONTAMINATED** THE OTHER HALF. THOUSANDS OF MUTANT **LIFE-FORMS** SPRANG UP.


I PROPOSED PURGING THEM **ALL** IMMEDIATELY, BUT THE PATRIARCHS SAID THERE'D BEEN **ENOUGH** VIOLENCE AND HATRED. THEY **VETOED** MY PLAN.

AS IT TURNED OUT, **MOST** OF THE NEW LIFE-FORMS COULDN'T ADAPT TO THE CHANGED ENVIRONMENT AND **DIED OUT** SHORTLY THEREAFTER. ONLY THE INHERITORS SEEMED TO **THRIVE** ON IT...!



TELL ME, MAJOR...HOW DID THEY COME BY SUCH A CIVILIZED NICKNAME? IN **MY** TIME, THEY WERE SIMPLY CALLED **VAMPIRES!**

AFTER THE PATRIARCHS DECLARED THEM A **PROTECTED SPECIES**, THEIR LEADER, ARABAK CLURADA, WAS HEARD TO PROCLAIM..."IT IS NOT THE **MEEK**, BUT THE **UNREMITTING** WHO INHERIT THE EARTH!"



WHAT DOES IT **MATTER** WHO INHERITS THE EARTH? IT WILL PROBABLY END UP IN **PROBATE** ANYWAY.

**PROCEED** WITH YOUR PLANS FOR THE **AID**. I'LL THINK OF **SOMETHING** TO TELL THE PATRIARCHS WHEN THE TIME COMES.





FROM THE TARKTA (INHERITOR'S BIBLE): "AND THE PROPHET, ARABAK, SAID, 'IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE LIGHT; THE GREAT WHITE LIGHT THAT BURNED THE SKY AND BROUGHT JUDGEMENT TO ALL EARTH. FROM THE LOINS OF THIS LIGHT, TWO SONS WERE ISSUED ...'"



"ONE WAS CALLED *MAN*, HE WHO WAS ONCE FAVORED BY THE FATHER; THE OTHER WAS *ARABAK*, OF THE DARKNESS, WHO WOULD ONE DAY COME INTO HIS *BIRTH-RIGHT*... THE KINGDOM OF THE EARTH!"



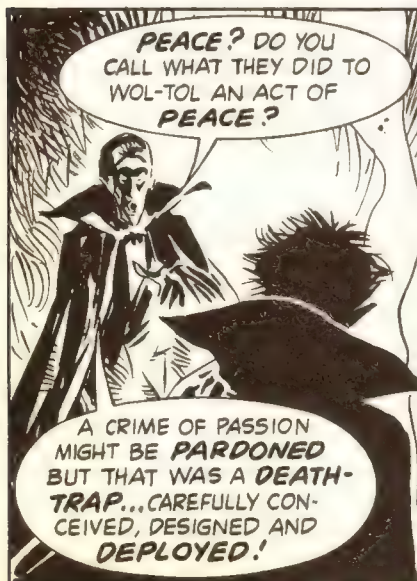
IT IS ALSO WRITTEN..."THERE SHALL BE *PEACE* BETWEEN THE SONS OF THE LIGHT!"

WHEN BEASTS OF THE FOREST GREW *SCARSE*, DID NOT OUR BROTHERS OFFER TO SHARE THEIR OWN FLESH WITH US? DID THEY NOT LABEL THE CRIMINAL, THE INSANE, THE ELDERLY WITH A *RED CROSS*, SO WE WOULD KNOW UPON WHOM TO *FEED*?



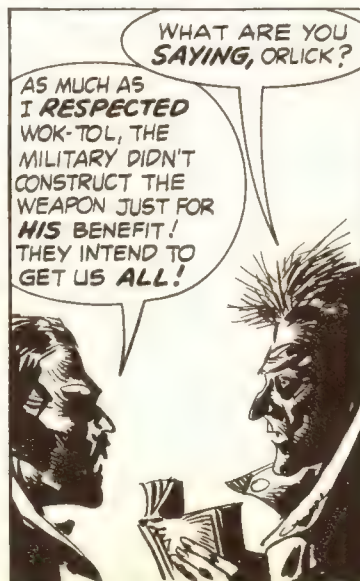
AND DIDN'T THEY *PROMISE* US THAT IF WE CONFINED OUR ATTACKS TO THOSE DESIGNATED *UNDESIRABLES*...

...WE WOULD NEVER GO *HUNGRY*, NOR RISK THE *PEACE* THAT EXISTS BETWEEN US?



*PEACE*? DO YOU CALL WHAT THEY DID TO WOL-TOL AN ACT OF *PEACE*?

A CRIME OF PASSION MIGHT BE *PARDONED* BUT THAT WAS A *DEATH-TRAP*... CAREFULLY CONCEIVED, DESIGNED AND *DEPLOYED*!



WHAT ARE YOU *SAYING*, ORLICK?

AS MUCH AS I *RESPECTED* WOL-TOL, THE MILITARY DIDN'T CONSTRUCT THE WEAPON JUST FOR *HIS* BENEFIT! THEY INTEND TO GET US *ALL*!



SO I'M SAYING... *POWER TO THE INHERITORS*! IT'S TIME WE *CLAIMED* WHAT IS *OURS*!



"WHOEVER WILLFULLY KILLS, OR INFLECTS INJURY UPON AN INHERITOR SHALL BE DEEMED GUILTY OF A CAPITAL OFFENSE."  
(PATRIARCH'S EDICT NO. 723)

I'VE GIVEN MUCH THOUGHT TO THE **AID** THESE PAST FEW DAYS, AND I BELIEVE I'VE WORKED OUT A VIABLE **STRATEGY**.

WE MUST BE CAREFUL...THE LAW IS VERY SPECIFIC ON SUCH MATTERS. FORTUNATELY, I WAS ABLE TO COVER-UP THE INITIAL TEST, BUT IF THE PATRIARCHS **LEARNED** OF IT...!

I'VE CONSIDERED THAT. IF WE INCITE THE INHERITORS TO MAKE THE **FIRST** MOVE, THE PATRIARCHS HAVE NO **CHOICE** BUT TO ORDER **MILITARY REPRISAL!**

ONCE THEY DO THAT, WE'RE FREE TO TAKE WHATEVER STEPS WE DEEM NECESSARY FOR **'DEFENSE'**.

HOW DO WE **PROVOKE** THE INHERITORS WITHOUT RAISING THE PATRIARCH'S **SUSPICIONS?**

LEAVE THE DETAILS TO **ME**.

FOUR NIGHTS PASSED WITHOUT INCIDENT. ORLICK THE REBEL REMAINED RESTLESS AND ILL-TEMPERED, A POWDER KEG WHOSE FUSE BURNED DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO ITS FILLINGS.

YOU CARRY YOUR GRIEF **TOO FAR**, ORLICK. SINCE THE DEATH OF WOK-TAL, THE CLOSEST YOU'VE COME TO A **SMILE** IS BRUSHING YOUR **TEETH!**

WHY **SHOULD** I SMILE? WE SIT HERE LIKE PEBBLES ON A BEACH, WAITING FOR THE **TIDE** TO WASH US AWAY!

WE TOOK A VOTE, AND IT WAS FOUR-TWO TO REMAIN AT **PEACE**. CAN YOU NOT **ACCEPT** THAT?

**ACCEPT?** WHILE WE PASSIVELY ACCEPT, THE HUMANS ARE PLOTTING NEWER, MORE IN-GENIOUS WAYS TO...  
**AAAAAAK...!**

**HERE, VAMPIRE... HERE IS THE ONLY LEGACY YOU DESERVE!**





"HE ADVISED THE OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS TO DECLARE WAR ON THE INHERITORS. THEY HAVE TAKEN HIS PLAN UNDER ADVISEMENT, AND A DECISION IS EXPECTED LATER TODAY."



"TWIN PUNCTURE MARKS IN THE VICTIM'S THROAT LED THE GENERAL TO BELIEVE PALEK HAD BEEN ATTACKED BY AN INHERITOR. PALEK WARNED THAT THIS MIGHT BE MERELY THE FIRST WAVE OF INHERITOR VIOLENCE AND SAID PREVENTATIVE ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY."



WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND, GENERAL SHORR, IS WHY THE INHERITORS CHOSE **LAST NIGHT** TO ATTACK. I KNOW OF NO **PROVOCATION.**

WHY DID THE **JAPANESE** PICK DECEMBER SEVENTH TO BOMB **PEARL HARBOR**, BACK IN ANCIENT TIMES? AND WHO **CARES?** THE FACT IS IT WAS **DONE**, AND WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH CONSEQUENCES.



THE INHERITORS ARE **MUTANTS**, NOT FULL HUMAN BEINGS LIKE **US!** WE CAN'T KNOW WHAT GOES ON IN THEIR WARPED, BARBARIC MINDS...

...BUT WE **CAN** AND **WILL** SHOW THEM THEY CAN'T KILL OUR LEADERS WITH **IMPUNITY!**



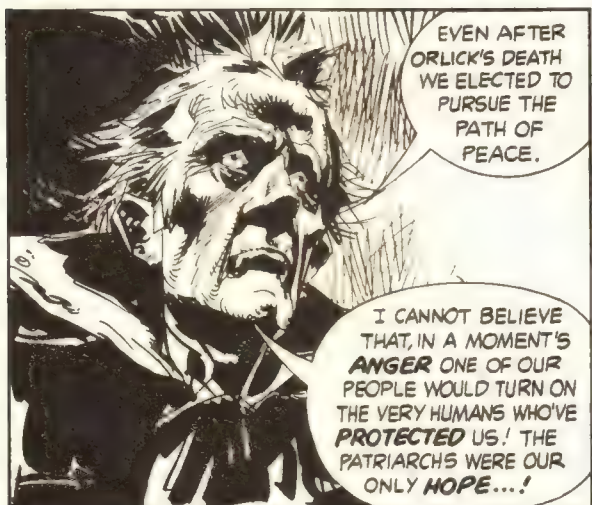




THE INHERITORS, NATURALLY, HAD TO WAIT FOR THE EVENING EDITION TO LEARN OF GUSTAV PALEK'S MURDER. THEY LEARNED TOO, THAT THE COUNCIL OF PATRIARCHS HAD **ADJOURNED** WITHOUT REACHING A FINAL **DECISION**... THE HEARINGS WOULD CONTINUE TOMORROW.

ARABAK'S JUSTICE IS **SWIFT**! ONE MEMBER OF OUR TRIBUNAL IS KILLED AND, BUT HOURS LATER, A **PATRIARCH** DIES!

ARABAK HAD NO **HAND** IN IT, I'M AFRAID...NOR DID ANY **OTHER** INHERITOR!



EVEN AFTER ORLICK'S DEATH WE ELECTED TO PURSUE THE PATH OF PEACE.

I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT, IN A MOMENT'S **ANGER** ONE OF OUR PEOPLE WOULD TURN ON THE VERY HUMANS WHO'VE **PROTECTED** US! THE PATRIARCHS WERE OUR ONLY **HOPE**...!



NOW WE HAVE NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE. COME WITH ME, KOR-NAT...

...WE MUST GO TO THEM AND **DEFEND** OURSELVES!



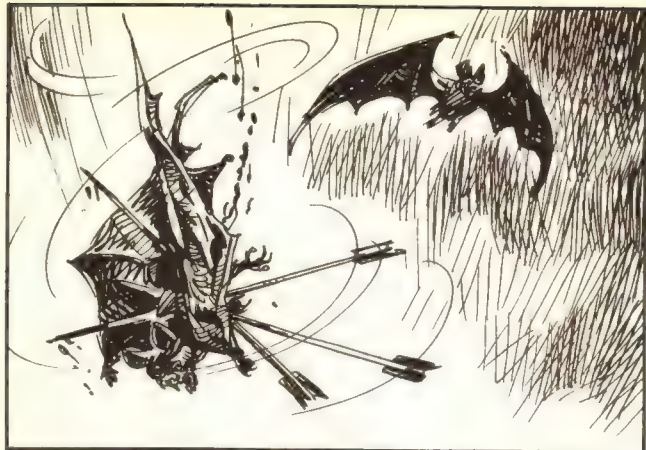
THEY GLIDED, SOMETIMES COASTING ON THE WARM NIGHT CURRENT, OTHER TIMES BEATING THEIR LEATHERY WINGS FURIOUSLY, UNTIL THEY CAME TO THE PATRIARCH'S MANSION.

AS ALWAYS, THE FLIGHT WAS **EXHILIRATING**. THE HUMANS MIGHT **ENVY** SUCH FREEDOM...PERHAPS THAT WAS A **PART** OF WHAT THEIR HATRED WAS ALL ABOUT.



**INHERITORS!** DON'T LET THEM GET **INSIDE**!





IT TOOK EXACTLY **SEVEN MINUTES** FOR GENERAL SHORR AND HIS SECURITY FORCE TO KICK IN THE CHAMBER DOOR.

THERE IT IS MEN! **FIRE!** THANK GOD IT HASN'T HARMED OUR **LEADER!**

WHAT TOOK YOU SO **LONG**, GENERAL?

A LOT CAN BE SAID IN **SEVEN MINUTES.**



WERE YOU **STALLING**, PERHAPS? HOPING THE INHERITOR WOULD KILL ME AND FURTHER YOUR **CAUSE....?**

GUARDS, THERE IS THE MAN YOU WANT...**ARREST HIM!**

WHAT LIES HAS THIS MONSTER BEEN **TELLING** YOU?



**MINOR** ITEMS...LIKE THE ELABORATE **WEAPONS** YOU'VE CREATED FROM MILITARY FUNDS, AND THE BRAZEN **ATTACK** UPON HIS TRIBUNAL!

THIS IS **YOUR** CIGAR BUTT THEY FOUND ON THE GROUND AFTER THE MASKED HORSEMAN ESCAPED. AFTER ALL, NO ONE **ELSE** WOULD SMOKE THESE GOD-AWFUL THINGS.



YOU'D TAKE THE WORD OF A **MUTANT** AGAINST A FULL-BLOODED **HUMAN?**

IN YOUR CASE, **YES.**

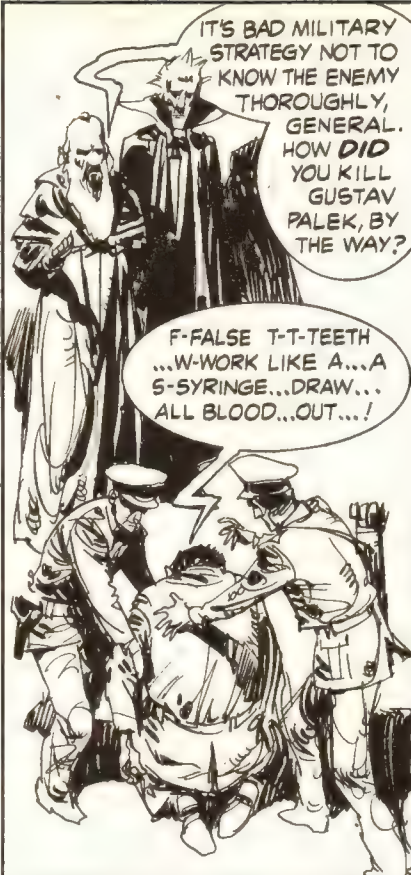


YOU MADE ONE GRIEVOUS **ERROR**, GENERAL. ALTHOUGH MUTANTS, WE ARE INDEED **VAMPIRES** IN EVERY RESPECT! SO WHEN WE TASTE HUMAN **BLOOD**, OUR VICTIMS ALSO RISE AS **INHERITORS**!



GUSTAV PALEK DID NOT DO SO.

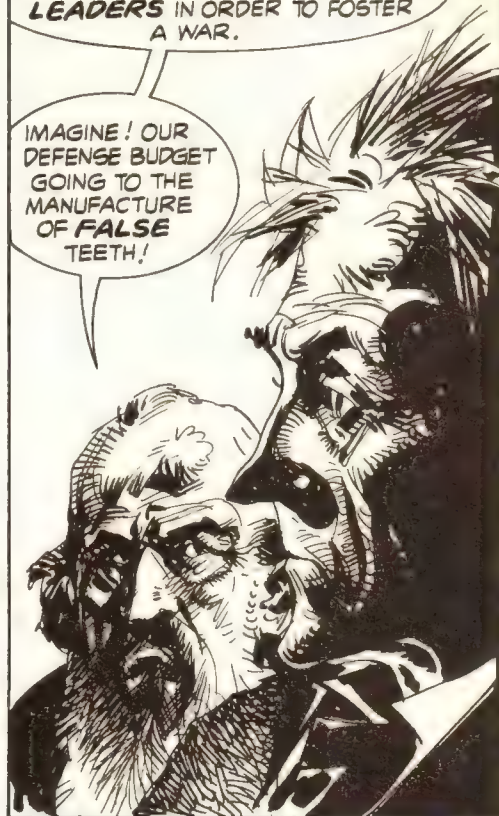
IT'S BAD MILITARY STRATEGY NOT TO KNOW THE ENEMY THOROUGHLY, GENERAL. HOW DID YOU KILL GUSTAV PALEK, BY THE WAY?



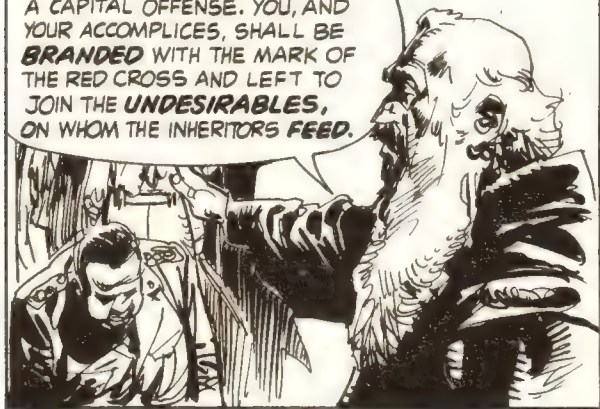
F-FALSE T-T-TEETH  
...W-WORK LIKE A...A  
S-SYRINGE...DRAW...  
ALL BLOOD...OUT...!

HE HATED **MUTANTS** SO MUCH, HE WAS WILLING TO KILL HIS OWN **LEADERS** IN ORDER TO FOSTER A WAR.

IMAGINE! OUR DEFENSE BUDGET GOING TO THE MANUFACTURE OF **FALSE TEETH**!



IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR LAW, HE HAS BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF A CAPITAL OFFENSE. YOU, AND YOUR ACCOMPLICES, SHALL BE **BRANDED** WITH THE MARK OF THE RED CROSS AND LEFT TO JOIN THE **UNDESIRABLES**, ON WHOM THE INHERITORS FEED.



THERE HE **IS**, MY FRIEND. YOU MAY TAKE HIM IF YOU WISH.



NO, THANK YOU. I'LL EAT HIM **HERE**.



AND THE PEACE THAT ARABAK **PROPHESIZED** AGAIN HELD DOMINION OVER THE EARTH.



# THE SEGERSON experiment



I WAS TOO TIRED TO APPRECIATE THE **AESTHETICS** OF SEGERSON HOUSE. I WAS AWARE THAT THIS OLD NEW ENGLAND MANOR WAS A PROPER INSPIRATION TO THE MORBID **IMAGINATION** OF THE MAN WHO INHABITED IT, BUT I SAW ONLY **SUPERFICIAL** DETAILS.

I WAS HERE TO DO A FEATURE STORY ON **RANDOLPH SEGERSON**, A BRILLIANT, RECLUSIVE **WRITER** WHO WAS HERALDED BY SOME CONTEMPORARY, AND IN MY OPINION **OVERLY-CHARITABLE**, CRITICS AS "THE NEW POE".

I POUNDED THE IRON DOOR KNOCKER SEVERAL TIMES AND WAITED. (BOY WHAT KNOCKERS ON THIS PLACE, I THOUGHT DRYLY). NOTHING HAPPENED, SO I TURNED ETIQUETTE ASIDE AND PUSHED OPEN THE DOOR.



A RUSH OF STALE, MUSTY AIR FORCED ITS WAY DOWN MY THROAT. WHATEVER **ELSE** COULD BE SAID FOR SEGERSON, HE WAS NO **HOUSEKEEPER**.

## THE EVIL WITHIN

by Randolph Segerson

The house stood, a black, monolithic structure against the foreboding skies outside Salem, Massachusetts. The ghosts of a thousand burnt witches haunted the dark, cumulous clouds as they convened in mute homage to the bleak manse below. Putrid odors from nearby swamplands hung like Christmas stockings over the grounds, driving away animal and plant-life.

The house stood silent and melancholy, anticipating a midnight messiah who would come and pry open an ancient door, or shatter one of the filth-caked windows that never let the sun through, thereby unleashing the horde of unholy essences that waited within.

The girl stood, one cold autumn night, in the shadow of the bleak mansion. She pulled her shawl closer about her shoulders as a raw wind, with no source or direction, sprang up around her.

The girl stood, listening to the flutter of bats in its ancient gables, and the soft whistle of wind through the cracked window panes. Then she ascended its steps and heard the laugh of rotting wood.

HIS TASTE IN FURNITURE WAS AS **COMPLEX** AND **EXOTIC** AS HIS OWN **REPUTATION**. I SAW IMMEDIATELY THE EARLY **CHIPPENDALE**, BUT WAS PUZZLED BY SUGGESTIONS OF **ROCCO** AND **CHINESE** STYLE. HERE IN THIS SETTING THEY LOOKED MORE LIKE EARLY **DE SADE**.



BY NOW I WAS ALSO CONVINCED THAT MY HOST-TO-BE HAD **FORGOTTEN** OUR APPOINTMENT.

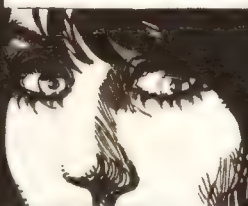


I PROGRESSED INTO THE NEXT CHAMBER, CALLING MY HOST'S NAME. ONLY A HOLLOW, UNNERVINGLY LOUD **ECHO** REPLIED. THE OPAQUE SHADOWS AROUND ME TOOK ON A MORE **LITERAL** FORM...



...IRON INSTRUMENTS OF **TORTURE**! SCREWS, PRONGS FOR THE TEARING OF TONGUES, THE RACK, THE IRON MAIDEN. A **FINISHING SCHOOL FOR INQUISITORS!**

SOMEWHERE BEHIND ME, THE CREAK OF RUSTED HINGES. SOMEWHERE **INSIDE** ME, THE POWER OF SUGGESTION.



SEGERSON'S **MACABRE** SENSE OF HUMOR WAS A LARGE PART OF THE **MYSTIQUE** THAT SURROUNDED HIM. I ALWAYS CONSIDERED IT A **COMPENSATION** FOR HIS LACK OF TRUE TALENT.

NOT THAT I CONSIDERED SEGERSON A **BAD** WRITER. SIMPLY NO BETTER, OR WORSE, THAN A DOZEN OLD MATRONS WHO WRITE THOSE PAPERBACK **GOthic ROMANCES** FOR ACNE-FACED TEENAGE GIRLS.



HIS WORK WAS BLATANTLY **DERIVATIVE** OF THE OLD MASTERS... LOVECRAFT, LE FANU, HAWTHORNE... WITH ONLY OCCASSIONAL **FLASHES** OF ORIGINALITY.

YOU ARE **VICTORIA WALMSLEY**?

I AM **RANDOLPH SEGERSON**.



YOU LOOK SO **DIFFERENT** FROM THE WAY I **IMAGINED** YOU.

THAT'S THE **BEAUTIFUL THING** ABOUT IMAGINATION... IT TAKES OUR DEEPEST, MOST PRIVATE THOUGHTS AND GIVES THEM **IMAGE** AND **SUBSTANCE**.

BUT "THE SERPENT IN THE CELLAR" WAS PUBLISHED NEARLY SEVENTY YEARS AGO... HOW CAN YOU LOOK SO **YOUNG**?

YOUR JOURNEY HAS BEEN LONG AND TEDIOUS. I'M SURE YOU HAVE MANY **QUESTIONS**, BUT THEY MUST WAIT TILL **TOMORROW**.

LET ME SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM.



He was now, as he had always been, the Master of the House and all that lived within. His eyes were yellow, the pale color of weasel urine, but they shone like polished gold.

He smiled at the girl an ancient smile, condescending, and primeval. A smile that answered the riddles of the ages, and asked the unspoken questions of the future.

He was now, as he had always been, in command.

IF HIS INTENTION WAS TO **SHOCK** ME, HE HAD JUST DONE ONE HELL OF A JOB. FAMILIAR WORDS OF PROTEST AND SURPRISE CAME TOGETHER AND CLOGGED IN MY THROAT WITHOUT BECOMING **SPEECH**.

I TURNED TO MY HOST FOR **REASSURANCE**.



**GASP!**

I TRUST YOU WILL BE **COMFORTABLE...**!





IT WAS CLEAR MY HOST HAD **DESERTED** ME. I STOOD IN THE CORRIDOR AS DUMB AND MOTIONLESS AS THE GRANDFATHER CLOCK THAT TICKED, SOMEWHERE DOWNSTAIRS, KEEPING RHYTHM WITH MY OWN HEARTBEAT.



IF **GENIUS** IS AKIN TO **MADNESS** I WAS READY TO CONCEDE THAT **SEGERSON** WAS **BRILLIANT** AFTER ALL.

**CHILDHOOD RIDDLE:** WHEN IS A DOOR NOT A DOOR? ANSWER: WHEN ITS **AJAR**. YOU THINK OF THE DAMNDEST THINGS WHEN YOU'RE SCARED. I PUSHED OPEN THE DOOR AND --!



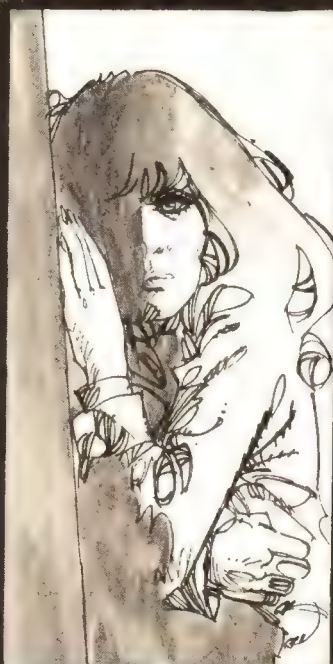
THE MAN WITH THE **BRANDING IRON** SAID ONLY ONE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS "**PAIN**". HE REPEATED IT OVER AND OVER LIKE A **LITANY**.



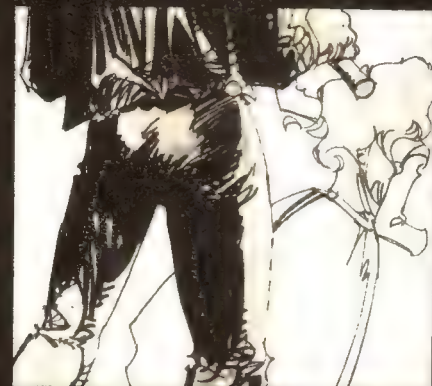
FOR ALL MY EDUCATION, HE TURNED OUT TO BE THE MORE **ARTICULATE**. I COULDN'T THINK OF **ANYTHING** TO SAY.



I RAN... DOWN THE HALL... INTO AN EMPTY ROOM...



...AND SLAMMED THE DOOR BEHIND ME. I PRESSED PANTING AGAINST THE COOL WOOD.



She reacted much as the master expected. Initial panic yielded flight which, he decided, would be a permissible defense to this first trial. Later this option would be eliminated. Fear of physical pain. Strong, but not the ultimate. It didn't destroy reason...it still allowed resistance. Fear of physical pain. It was the **pen-knife**. Next he would try the **dagger**. And if that didn't work... the sword.



YOU SEEM **FRIGHTENED**,  
MS. WALMSLEY, IS  
SOMETHING THE MATTER?

ONE OF US IS **MAD**,  
MR. SEGERSON. AND  
SO FAR, I STILL HAVE  
FAITH IN MY **OWN**  
MENTAL HEALTH.

DO  
YOU?

THE ROOM **HAD** BEEN EMPTY...  
I WAS CERTAIN OF IT!

"There are things about this house you do not understand," said the master, with a sympathetic smile. "You will before you leave here, I promise you.

"But until that time comes, do not be quick to judge anything you see. You consider yourself an educated woman, do you not? Four years at Sarah Lawrence, two at Harvard...impressive credentials.

"But what education have you really had? You have a sheepskin that says you know the difference between a participle, and a gerund, but what do you really know of life...and death...or love."

I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND!

GOOD.  
THAT IS THE **FIRST** STEP.  
YOU ARE NOT IN BOSTON  
ANY LONGER... THE LAWS  
THAT GOVERN CIVILIZED  
SOCIETY MEAN **NOTHING**  
HERE.

THE HOUSE HAS  
ITS OWN **ENDS**, ITS  
OWN **MEANS**... ITS OWN  
**ILLUSIONS**.

THE BED OF NAILS, THE BRANDING  
IRON... THOSE WEREN'T ILLUSIONS.

TELL ME,  
WHAT DO YOU  
**SEE?**

CAN YOU  
BE SURE?

IF I'D HAD ANY SENSE, I'D HAVE LEFT **THEN**... MADE  
SEGERSON ESCORT ME TO THE FRONT DOOR AND BACK TO THE  
SAFE, STERILE STREETS OF OLD **NEW ENGLAND**.

MAYBE IT WAS MY JOURNALIST'S **CURIOSITY**, THE  
SURETY THAT IF I SURVIVED THIS, I'D HAVE ONE  
HELL OF A STORY, MAYBE TOO IT WAS THE  
**SINCERITY** IN SEGERSON'S VOICE...

...AND THE CRAZY NOTION THAT  
THE HOUSE **WAS** WHISPERING  
SOME ANCIENT, ARCAINE  
**SECRET** IN MY EAR.



SO ONCE AGAIN,  
I WISH YOU GOOD  
NIGHT, MY DEAR,  
THOUGH I DOUBT  
YOU WILL HAVE  
ONE!

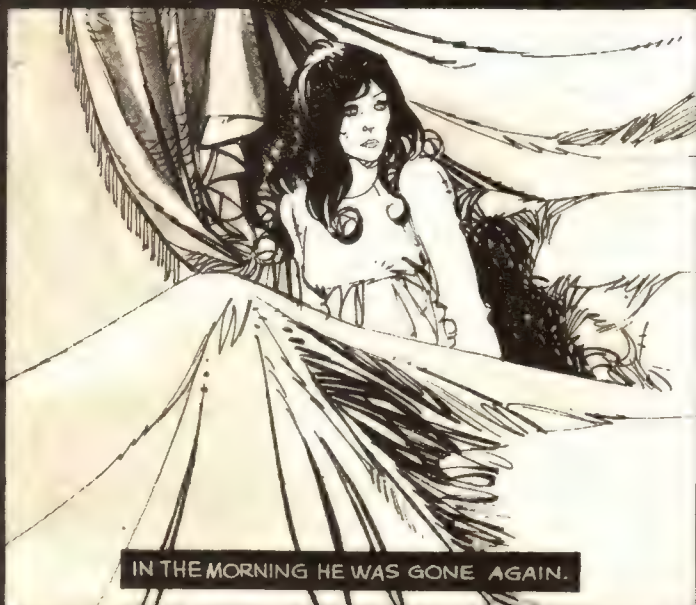
MR. SEGERSON...  
RANDOLPH...!

I'D RATHER  
NOT SLEEP ALONE  
IF YOU DON'T  
MIND.

I WAS **SURPRISED**, BECAUSE  
I WASN'T FULLY **CONVINCED**  
THE WORDS'D COME FROM MY  
OWN THROAT. NO CONSCIOUS  
**DECISION** PRECEDED THEM;  
THEY SIMPLY **ESCAPED**  
BEFORE I WAS AWARE OF  
IT.



I WAS **DISAPPOINTED**, TOO,  
BECAUSE THE WORDS  
PRODUCED NO NOTICEABLE  
**REACTION** IN SEGERSON  
SAVE TO MAKE HIM REVERSE  
**DIRECTION**. AT THE SAME  
TIME, I WAS **RELIEVED**.



IN THE MORNING HE WAS GONE AGAIN.

"There is no such thing as love in this House", the Master said softly. "Love is as much a discipline as it is an art... and as you have seen, there is no discipline, no control here. The best you can hope for is that the thrill of the experience be fully exhausted and appreciated."

"I don't understand," said the girl.

"Neither do I" said the Master. "I merely place my trust in the House because I have no choice... then hope to survive long enough to fathom the purpose of it all."

"The House controls you?" she asked.

"No. I control the House because I choose to let it control me. I am and always will be the master of what goes on here."

"The girl still didn't understand, but she remained silent."

I SPENT THE REMAINDER OF THE NIGHT PRESSED  
AGAINST SEGERSON'S BODY. NEITHER SEXUALITY  
NOR SHYNESS PASSED BETWEEN US...



... ONLY A PRIMEVAL SENSE OF BELONGING, LIKE  
A WILD ANIMAL FEELS FOR ITS NATIVE JUNGLE.

"There is no such thing as love in this house. Love is a 25¢ gag card on Valentine's day, a catch-all that applies to popcorn and carrots as well as humanity. It's a Linda Lovelace double feature, or a game for adolescents of all ages."

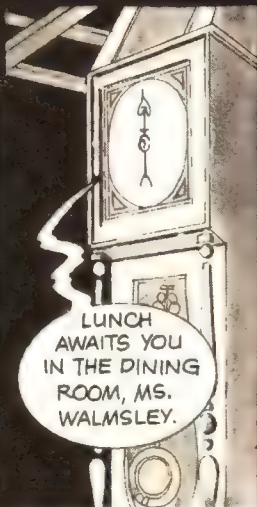
"There is no such thing as love in this house."

"There is something much deeper, more meaningful."

"It doesn't have a name anymore."



WITHOUT HIM, I FELT LESS LIKE A GUEST THAN AN **INTRUDER**... LIKE AN **EXPLORER** WHO SEES THE **NATIVES** COMING, BUT STILL ISN'T SURE WHETHER THEY'RE GOING TO **WELCOME** HIM OR **EAT** HIM.



LUNCH AWAITS YOU IN THE DINING ROOM, MS. WALMSLEY.

FUNNY, I COULD HAVE SWORN THAT CLOCK SAID SOMETHING.

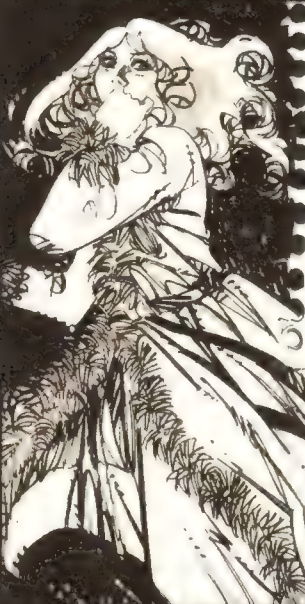
SINCE THE CLOCK WAS REASONABLY HONEST ABOUT THE **TIME**, I DECIDED I COULD PROBABLY TRUST IT IN **OTHER** RESPECTS, SO I WENT.



BESIDES, I WAS **HUNGRY**.



BUT NOT **THAT** HUNGRY.



Death is not a private matter; it is a social phenomenon.  
 Why else does the popularity of authors, or actors, or rock singers increase when death occurs? It certainly doesn't enhance their talent.  
 The death of a person...ony person...has a profound effect upon the living, if only because it reminds us of our own inevitable mortality.  
 The House knew this...and wondered why.



RANDOLPH! B-BUT YOU'RE---



I'M JUST WHAT YOU SEE. NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS.

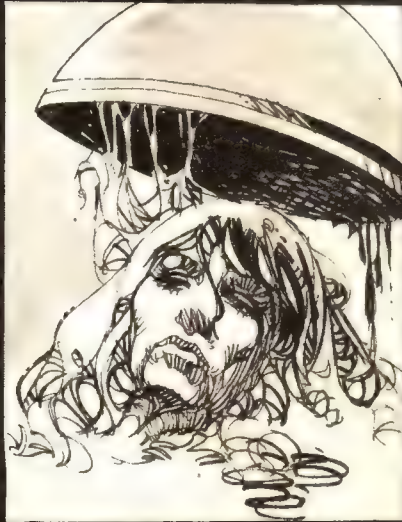
BUT I SAW YOUR **HEAD** ON THAT PLATTER!

COME, LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT YOU **REALLY** SAW.



LIFT IT!  
 I CAN'T...!

YOU **MUST**!







The things that inhabited the House were delighted at the progress of their game. The pen-knife had made a scratch, the dagger a wound...now the sword was poised for the kill.

Their delight lasted a full three days.

While they were delighted, the girl hung where the Master of the House had placed her.

She felt the presence of the House now as she never had before. She felt it in the tiny talons of furry rats that sometimes gnawed at her feet, in the coldness of the stone against her back, in the stench of ancient odors that were as trapped as she was. Yes, she felt the presence of the House.

And she understood its purpose.

Its purpose was fear.

...UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

YOU ARE RANDOLPH SEGERSON.



IN LIGHT OF WHAT IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN YES, I AM.

MOST PERCEPTIVE. NATHANIEL IS MORE THAN A SON TO ME...

I NOTE A DEFINITE RESEMBLANCE TO MY OTHER HOST. I GATHER HE IS YOUR SON?



YOU ARE LOOKING WELL, MS. WAMSLEY...





BUT WE HAVEN'T TIME TO **DISCUSS** THAT NOW. THIS IS THE EVE OF RAK-KORROK, AND THE SACRIFICE TO THOG... **THE SERPENT IN THE CELLAR!** I TRUST YOU REMEMBER THE STORY...?



OF COURSE. THOG... THE INVISIBLE **DEMON-GOD** OF THE ANCIENT KHOYLA TRIBE, FINALLY **TRAPPED** BEHIND THE WALL OF AN OLD NEW ENGLAND MANOR BY AN EARLY CHRISTIAN **EXORCIST**.

EVERYONE THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A WORK OF **FICTION**... A BRILLIANT **FANTASY**, THEY SAID. ONLY **I** KNEW IT WAS **NOT** A WORK OF THE IMAGINATION... FOR I HAD FOUND, QUITE ACCIDENTALLY, THE **TOMB** OF THOG!

HE EXISTS, JUST AS I DESCRIBED HIM... **INVISIBLE... AND HUNGRY!**

YOU'RE A CHARLATON, MR. SEGERSON... AND A **LIAR!**

NOT REALLY. JUST A PLAYER WITH WORDS.

The purpose was as clear as a pastoral waterfall, so that its transparency and simplicity almost startled her.

The girl spoke slowly, confidently, not allowing herself the luxury of doubt, nor even considering the possibility she might be wrong. If she were, she would know soon enough.

"The purpose is fear... in all of its masquerades. Fear of pain, fear of dying, fear of seeing a loved one die, fear of loneliness. Which is the greatest?"

"That's what the House wanted to know, wasn't it?"

The master nodded, obviously pleased.

"And the greatest fear of all... fear of the unknown. The one to which you did not succumb, girl. The one which you challenged and conquered."

YOU'VE HELPED ME UNDERSTAND WHAT IS,

YOU HAVE NOTHING MORE TO FEAR FROM THIS HOUSE. YOU'VE BEATEN IT, TAKEN AWAY IT'S ONLY WEAPON.



"NOTHING TO FEAR BUT FEAR ITSELF" I THOUGHT.

SEGERSON WOULD HAVE HIS **OWN** VERSION OF OUR ENCOUNTER TO TELL. I CERTAINLY HAD **MINE**.



THE OLD MAN WAS, PERHAPS, A **GENIUS** AFTER ALL. NOW IF ONLY HE COULD LEARN HOW TO **WRITE**...!



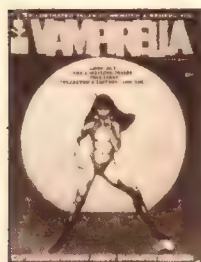
THAT IS MY TRADE, MS. WALMSLEY... A WRITER OF HORROR, TO BE SUCCESSFUL... MUST KNOW WHAT FRIGHTENS PEOPLE... REALLY FRIGHTENS THEM. BUG EYED MONSTERS ARE NOT THE ANSWER.

GREAT.





# VAMPIRELLA



#1901  
VAMPI #1  
\$8.00



#1902  
VAMPI #2  
\$5.50



#1904  
VAMPI #4  
\$5.00



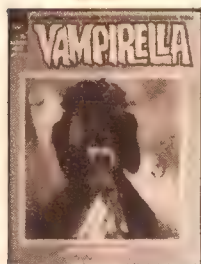
#1905  
VAMPI #5  
\$5.00



#1906  
VAMPI #6  
\$5.00



#1907  
VAMPI #7  
\$5.00



#1914  
VAMPI #14  
\$4.00



#1915  
VAMPI #15  
\$4.00



#1916  
VAMPI #16  
\$3.75



#1917  
VAMPI #17  
\$3.75



#1918  
VAMPI #18  
\$3.50



#1919  
VAMPI #19  
\$4.00



#1926  
VAMPI #26  
\$2.50



#1927  
VAMPI #27  
\$2.50



#1928  
VAMPI #28  
\$2.50



#1929  
VAMPI #29  
\$2.50



#1930  
VAMPI #30  
\$2.50



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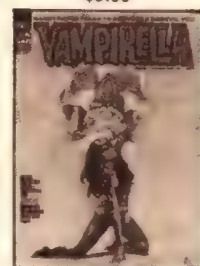
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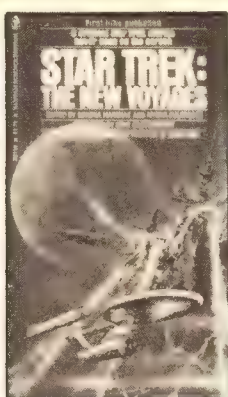
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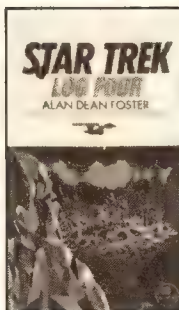
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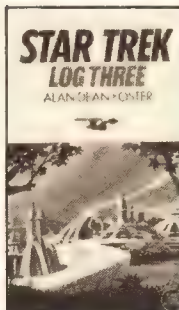
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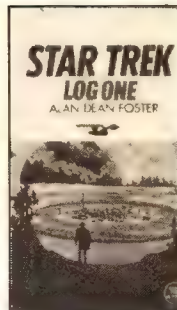
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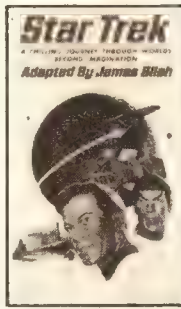
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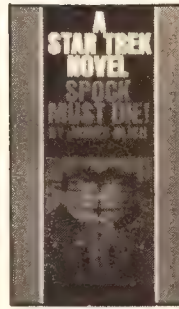
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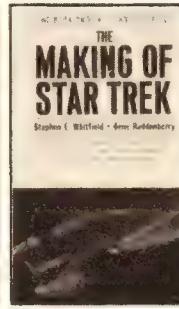
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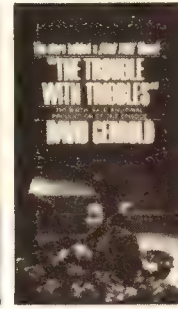
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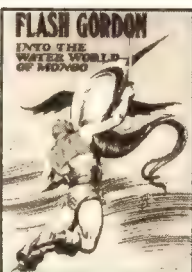
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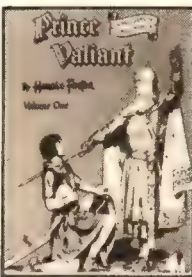
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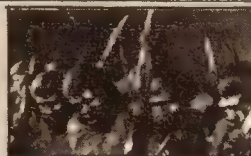
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## BENEATH THE PLANET OF THE APES

More astronauts land and are befriended by chimpanzees, Cornelius and Zira. They journey to the Forbidden Zone and discover a warlike race of horrifying mutants. Apes, humans and mutants clash in battle for atomic warheads.

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## ESCAPE FROM THE PLANET OF THE APES

Cornelius and Zira find a working spaceship, escape atomic destruction of the Ape world, journey through the same time warp that stranded the astronauts. They land on a hostile modern earth. Government forces attack and destroy them.

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## CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES

Cornelius and Zira's son, Caesar, is raised by a kindly circus owner who knows his origin. He leads an insurrection against the ape-slaves' human owners. Los Angeles is destroyed in battle.

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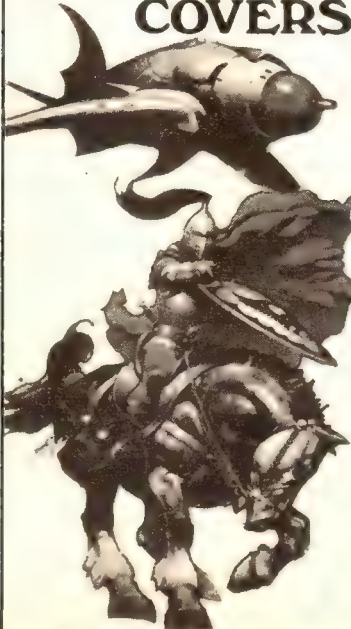
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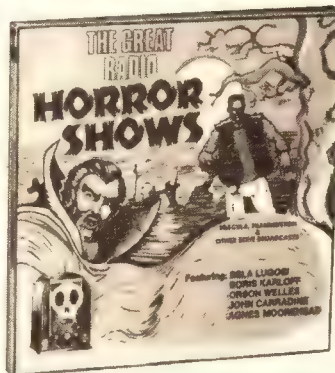
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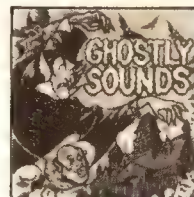
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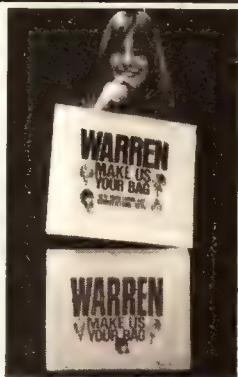
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Here she is! Brought sweeping out of the night, flying directly at your neck exclusively by Warren Publishing! Surely the collector's item of the decade! Our own VAMPIRELLA, star of her own magazine, debutante of Draculon, vamp of the veins and artisan of the arteries! In a limited-supply collector's plastic hobby kit that's becoming more rare by the hour! And the hour is bewitching, as vivacious VAMPIRELLA stands assembled before you on your hobby shelf! She has this special added attraction: movable arms and legs, and a pet black bat to perch on her shoulder! She's a pert, pretty miss, and stands over 5" tall! She's definitely a unique buy, and a certain contrast to your other hobby kits. VAMPIRELLA!—Princess of Draculon! VAMPIRELLA!—She hobnobs with Dracula Himself! VAMPIRELLA!—She travels the world with Dr. van Helsing in search of justice for herself, and all others WHO CRAVE TO DRINK HUMAN BLOOD! Yes, she's all that and MORE! She's now a super collector's item hobby kit manufactured by YOUR POPULAR DEMAND! Don't hesitate! The supply is definitely limited! Order as many VAMPIRELLA kits as you can—NOW! #2439 VAMPIRELLA KIT \$2.00



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# HORROR MOVIE FILMBOOKS AND BIOGRAPHIES HORROR FILM LIBRARY

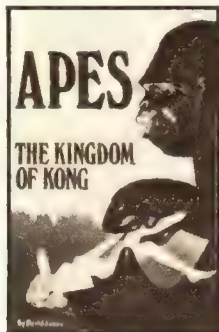
These exciting hard- and softcover books are vital to any horror film buff's library. They are brim full of facts, pictures, drawings, stills, fascinating articles, trivia and little-known, inside information. They are peopled with some of the strangest creatures you could hope not to meet on a dark night. And with plenty of people you'd be proud to meet anywhere. These books are a study in contrasts. The normal and the abnormal molded by some of the finest imaginations into first rate films...and filmbooks. These books shed some light on the portion of peoples' souls that loves to be scared. And how they go about frightening themselves!

## THE MAKING OF KONG



This 11"x8 1/2" 271 page hard cover book features 160 rare drawings and photos including production sketches and unpublished stills. The true story, based almost entirely on interviews with the people who worked on the film. Traces the background, impact, development of special effects, creation of the music score. #21198/\$17.50

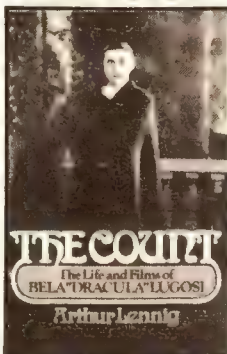
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## BIOGRAPHIES

### THE COUNT BELA LUGOSI



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## MONSTER'S WHO'S WHO

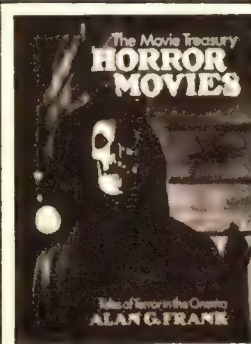
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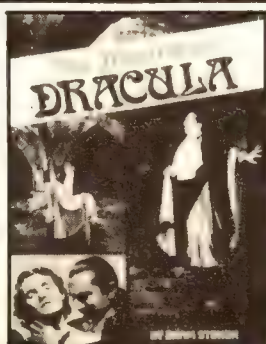


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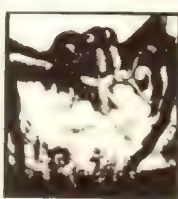
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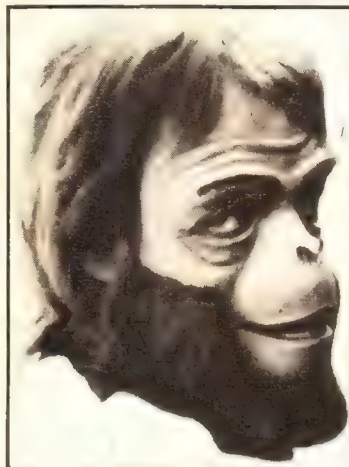
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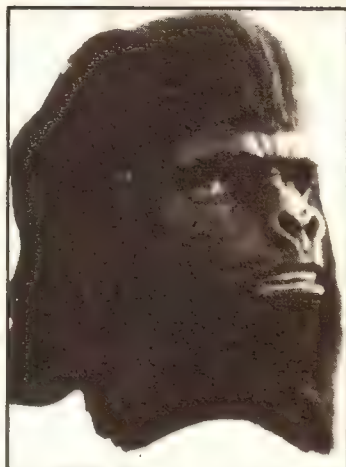


# PLANET <sup>OF THE</sup> APES HOLLYWOOD MASKS



**DR. ZAIUS**

Dr. Zaius is a statesman and a philosopher. This intelligent orangutan was peaceful and non-violent by nature. He is convinced by the evil General Ursus that, for the peace of the Ape world, humanity must be destroyed. This Zaius mask sports the worried, contemplative expression of a scientist ape with the fate of the world resting on his simian shoulders. It features the rust colored fur characteristic of the orangutan population. Order #2571/\$44.95



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Cornelius is the hero ape of PLANET OF THE APES. He is intelligent and inquisitive. He befriends the astronauts from today's earth, escapes the end of the Ape world and fathers the deliverer Ape, Caesar. Be Cornelius' alter-ego. The Cornelius head is beautifully molded and is instantly recognizable. Its handsome Chimpanzee colored fur frames the sensitive hero's features. Sensational for making Ape movies. A party must! Get #2570/\$44.95

Deluxe. Made in Hollywood. And worth every penny they cost. These are actual photos of the ape masks we are offering for sale. The three beautiful, high quality vinyl, full over-the-head masks are realistic reproductions of the movie ape-faces. All of them have realistic hair framing the expressive features. All are realistically colored to resemble the professional appliances used in the PLANET OF THE APES films. Quality masks like these 3 are seldom offered for sale to the public. This may be your only chance to order them. Film your own PLANET OF THE APES sequels. Be the hit of a party. Put on a business suit and an ape head ... a la Cornelius!

## FULL COLOR MONSTER MOVIES

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Now you can own these Regular or Super 8mm home movies, each one an acknowledged masterpiece of the fantasy genre. Created by Ray Harryhausen, the world's greatest special effectsman, these films feature some of the most astounding monsters and scenes of devastation ever filmed. And, if you journey with Jason in search of the Golden Fleece, or with Sinbad to the demonic isle of Colossa, there's the added dimension of color. The colors full and crisp; so much so that you will feel as if you are right in the midst of the action! Each film is a full 200' in length and runs a total of twelve minutes. A complete set of Jason or Sinbad adventures runs close to a full hour!



**CHAPTER ONE**  
"The Cyclops"

Sinbad and his men interrupt their lengthy voyage with a stop on the dangerous Colossa Island. There, they seek food and water. Upon landing, they are met by the evil magician Sokurah who is being chased by an enormous Cyclops. It's an incredible battle between men and monster... until the genie of the lamp intervenes! BW: #22006/\$9.95 Color: \$19.95/#22030

**CHAPTER TWO**  
"Strange Voyage"

Sinbad's beloved Princess Parisa is reduced to six inches in height. Only a piece of shell from the egg of the monstrous Colossa bird the Roc can restore her to normal. But the seas back to Colossa are fraught with danger... such as evil winds, malicious sailors... and the ear-piercing Sirens. Will Sinbad's ship survive? BW: \$9.95/#22007 Color: \$19.95/#22031

**CHAPTER THREE**  
"Evil Magician"

Sinbad and his men reach Colossa, and scale the craggy peaks to the Roc's nest. There, they do battle with the great two-headed bird, and Sinbad is captured by the monster. If that weren't enough, a living human skeleton is brought to life by Sokurah to menace the adventurous seamen. And there are still surprises galore! BW: \$9.95/#22008 Color: \$19.95/#22032

**CHAPTER FOUR**  
"Dragon's Lair"

After returning the princess to her normal size, Sokurah looses his fire-breathing dragon after Sinbad and Parisa. Just as he's about to get them, the Cyclops comes to their rescue. A battle to the death ensues, and the one-eyed creature is beaten. The dragon chases the pair to the sea... where it is a fight of fights! BW: \$9.95/#22009 Color: \$19.95/#22033



**CHAPTER ONE**  
"Battle With Talos"

Jason and his hearty Argonauts brave incredible peril to find the legendary Golden Fleece. And their first obstacle is an island on which lives the indestructible Man of Bronze known as Talos. Hundreds of feet tall, weapons are useless against the metal monster. Can he be stopped? BW: \$9.95/#22010 Color: \$19.95/#22034

**CHAPTER TWO**  
"Triton, Lord of the Deep"

The next impasse is the infamous menace of the Clashing Rocks. These are mountains in the sea that are alive! Jason must pass thru them... and faces destruction. Then, as doom nears, the giant God Triton comes to the rescue. And a surprise awaits Jason: in the waters floats a beautiful young girl! BW: \$9.95/#22011 Color: \$19.95/#22035

**CHAPTER THREE**  
"Hydra of Hades"

After being captured by the inhabitants of Colchis, land of the Golden Fleece, Jason breaks free. Then, in a diamond and gold studded cave, he finds the Fleece. But guarding it is the Hydra, a seven-headed dragon. It kills one of Jason's men... and then goes after the hero himself! Exciting! BW: \$9.95/#22012 Color: \$19.95/#22036

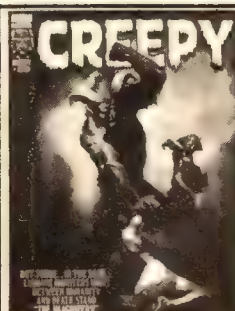
**CHAPTER FOUR**  
"Golden Fleece"

Jason and his men grab the Fleece and run! But their way is barred, first, by a flaming fireball from the sky... and second by an army of killer skeleton warriors. These grew from the teeth of the dead Hydra. And the nine skeletons battle Jason and two men in an incredible finale. Two men die. BW: \$9.95/#22013 Color: \$19.95/#22037

## THE 4 FILMS OF JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS

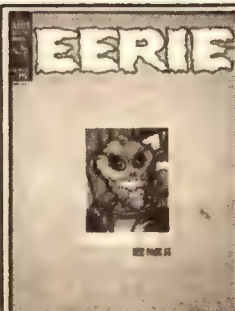


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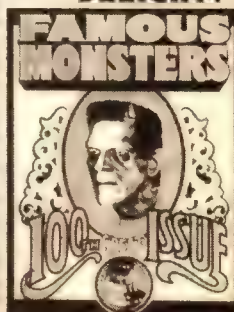
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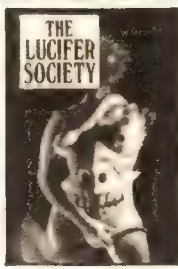
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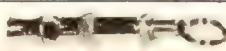
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Original replica of the famous Batmobile. It's almost 9" long! Batman and Robin sit inside the brightly colored auto, waiting to zoom off to combat another crime. Made of sturdy plastic, complete with double canopied bubble windows. Have fun cruising through Gotham City—or your own back yard! Order some for your friends too! Everyone enjoys adventures of Batman & Robin. Order #2640/\$1.50



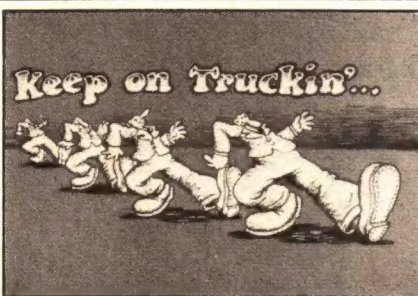
You won't believe your eyes! Watch ants dig tunnels carry loads! This nature study-6"x9" is made of strong, clear plastic. It includes decorations, sand, soil, and sand bar. Live ants are not included. They are sent separately by mailing form enclosed with each kit. Share the fun with your friends! #2612/\$2.98

## SPECTACULAR ANTS





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DRAWN BY

*JACK DAVIS*



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**6 FT FRANKENSTEIN**  
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WILL TEAR  
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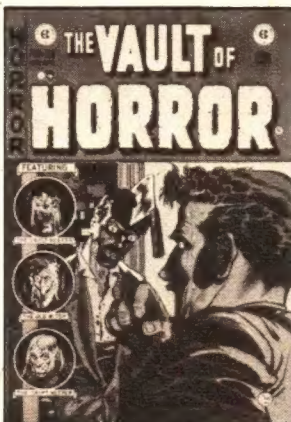
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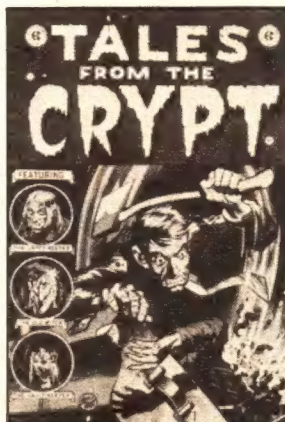
KING KONG Black & White  
30"x41" #2905 \$1.50



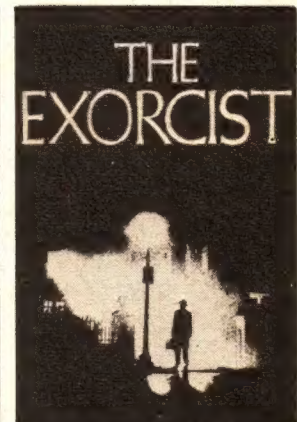
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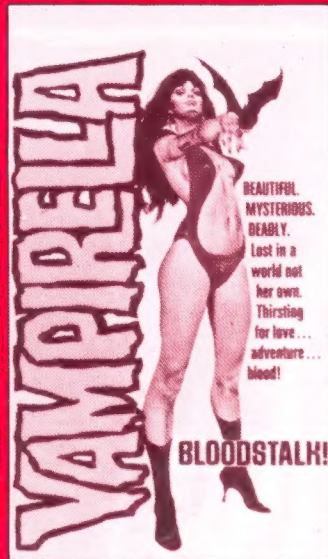
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<b>TOTAL FOR MERCHANDISE</b>			
N.Y. State Customers add 7% sales tax.			
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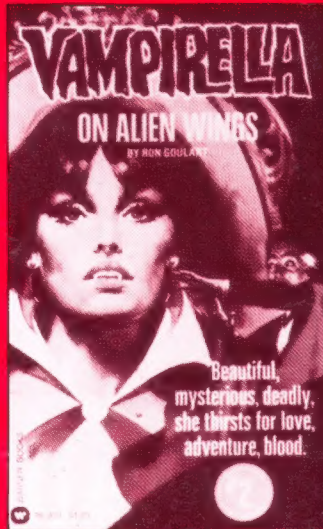
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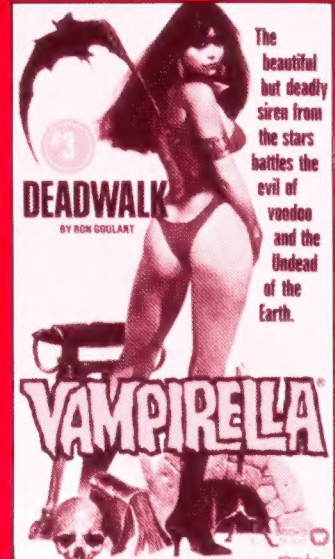
# VAMPIRELLA PAPERBACK NOVELS!



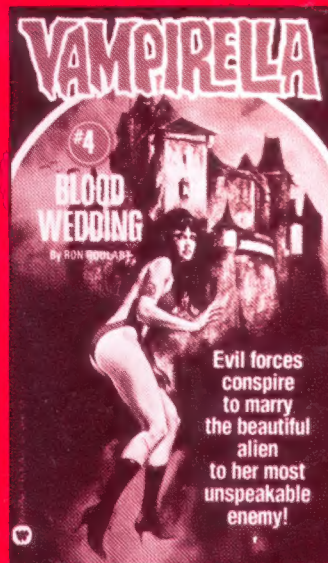
**BLOODSTALK** recreates the spectacular origin of VAMPIRELLA! A refugee in a returning explorer rocket, whisked from her dying planet where blood flowed in rivers, VAMPIRELLA must learn to kill... or adapt... or die! Surrounded by powerful enemies, like the Cult of the mad god, Chaos, she avoids the blind vampire slayer, Conrad Van Helsing. Befriended by his son, Adam, and by the magician, Pendragon, she pits herself against the evil Cult of Chaos and helplessly stakes her ever-present thirst for human blood! #21194/\$1.25



**ON ALIEN WINGS** takes VAMPIRELLA to a secluded Hollywood estate where the owner has devised a formula for immortality... involving a blood-starved VAMPIRELLA! On the Hollywood estate... on a "restful" Caribbean cruise... on a desert island, she and Pendragon are hounded by threats of evil, the demonically macabre, the Cult of Chaos! Pursued incessantly by Conrad Van Helsing, who must fight the growing affection of his son for the beautiful murderous alien, she must bow to her fate... or conquer it! #21196/\$1.25



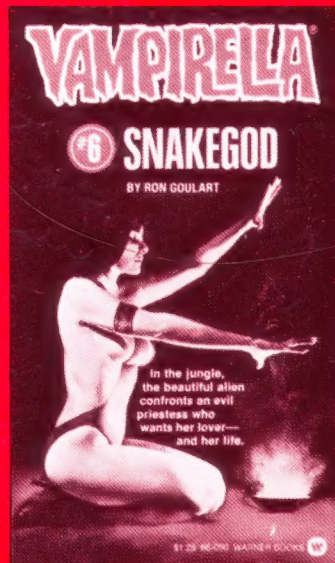
**DEADWALK** brings voodoo, zombies and human sacrifice into direct conflict with VAMPIRELLA's vow to fight the evil Cult of Chaos. Dread forces conspire to destroy Pendragon and capture VAMPIRELLA... the perfect candidate for human sacrifice by the dastardly Papa Jambee and his zombies. The glitter-filled world of rock seems an unlikely haven for the walking dead, but to VAMPIRELLA's dismay, a zombie stalks the frantic world of rock musicians. Aided by Adam, VAMPIRELLA wages battle against Chaos! #21197/\$1.25



**BLOOD WEDDING!** Words to chill even a soul as stout and strong as VAMPIRELLA's! Lured to the secluded castle of the mysterious Count Mordante by promises of a goodly audience and excellent reimbursement, VAMPIRELLA and Pendragon find that they have been chosen to provide a deadly and macabre entertainment. The Count has devised a dramatic finale to VAMPIRELLA's act! He had scheduled her appearance in a command performance as the bride of the mad god she has sworn to fight... the evil, insane Chaos! #21207/\$1.25



**DEATHGAME** takes VAMPIRELLA to the sun-filled, fun-filled Riviera, where men, fascinated by gambling, stake their lives on the turn of the wheel. Here VAMPIRELLA, too, falls victim to temptation. The sun lulls her fears... the lapping waters weaken her resolve. Against reason, she is lured into a forbidden love with a man she cannot resist... a man whose dangerous connections with the voraciously evil Cult of Chaos can be the undoing of the beautiful, deadly vampire! #21208/\$1.25



**SNAKEGOD** pits VAMPIRELLA against an enemy more vicious than any she has yet encountered. The incredible Cobra Queen! Priestess of a religious cult deep in the jungles of Southeast Asia! Able to transform at will into the body of a deadly, venomous snake! Presiding over profane rites in a vast, ruined jungle temple. Owner of vast fabled treasure of gold and jewels. The Cobra Queen wants Adam Van Helsing in exchange for her mortally wounded lover and consort. And she wants VAMPIRELLA dead! #21209/\$1.25

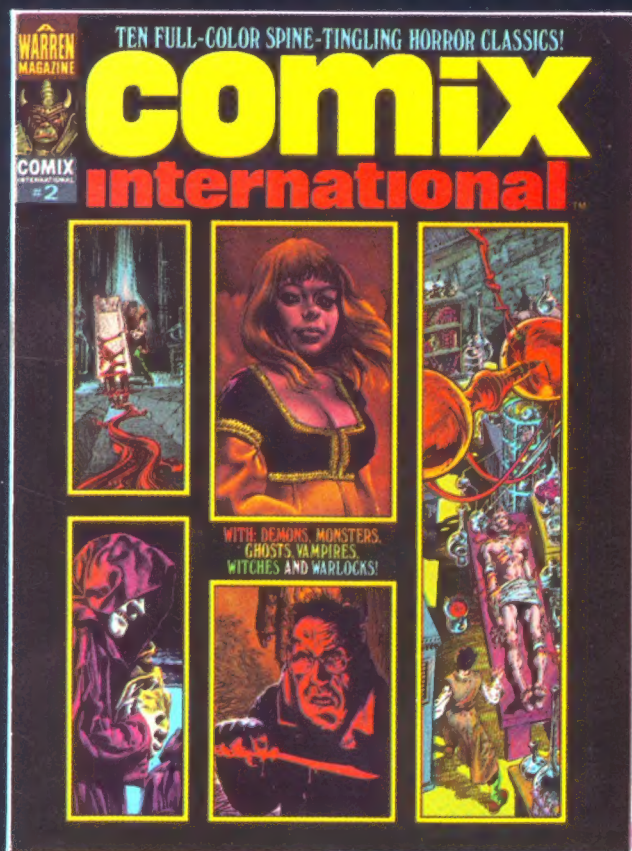
**VAMPIRELLA, THE WORLD'S FIRST COMIC STRIP HEROINE, COMES TO PAPERBACK! SIX FULL-LENGTH, ORIGINAL NOVELS FEATURE THE ADVENTURES OF THE BEAUTIFUL AND DEADLY EXTRATERRESTRIAL VAMPIRESS! VAMPIRELLA... BET YOU CAN'T READ JUST ONE!**



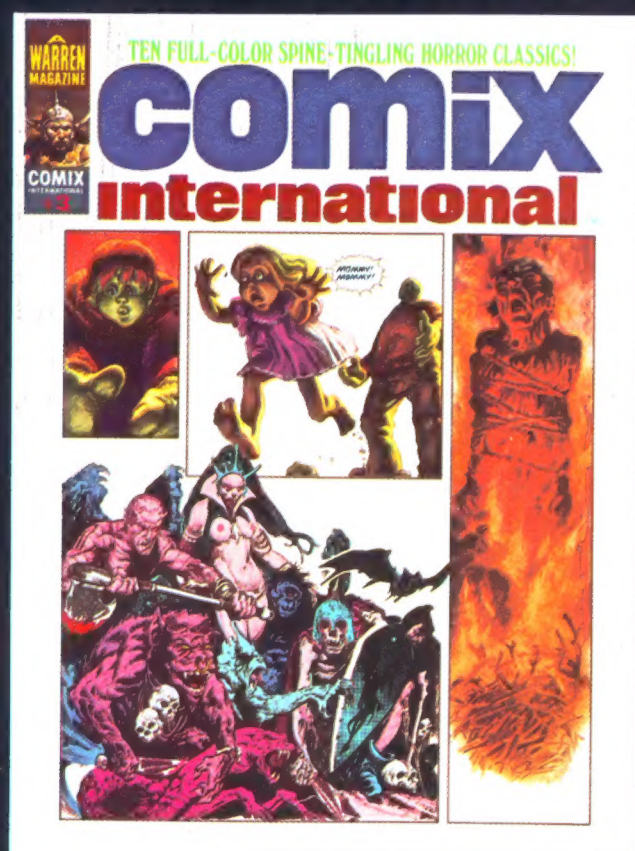
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